



# DECconnection

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

## January-February 2023 - Happy New Year!



We were a bit light on the holiday greetings this year so are grateful to Zul Abbany for sending this photo he came across on Facebook. We think Joe Pozerycki Jr. in Naples FL deserves a plug for this, so his website is [Joe Poz Design](#) (clickable link).

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## Events

### DEC Connection Tech Talks - 1st Year Program Review

Our first year of Tech Talks was fantastic! We had 6 engaging speakers, from Engineering, Product Management and Sales: Bob Anundson (who we thank for getting this series started), Nathan Teichholtz Brookwood, Bob Nusbaum, Nick Pappas, Avram Miller, and Gale "Jake" Jacobs. All talks were recorded and [can be watched on our website here](#). We have some really interesting sessions planned for 2023 (Watch for the "Ultimate Digital Town Hall" this spring), and we've promoted the Zoom session to a member benefit, so [join up](#) or [renew now](#) to participate!

We're interested in having speakers from international countries as well as from the USA/HQ. Please contact us at [info@deconnection.org](mailto:info@deconnection.org) if you're interested in giving a talk. Presentations are usually 30-45 minutes with 15-20 minutes discussion afterwards.

#### **NEXT UP ON OUR TECH TALKS AGENDA:**

**Tech Talk #7: February 23, 2023, 1 pm Eastern/12 pm Central/10 am Pacific - Kerry Bensman**



We recently enjoyed the discussion from Avram Miller about the Professional 3xx Series of Personal Computers, with references to the two complementary Digital products in the personal computing space. One was the Rainbow 100 Personal Computer, a product about which Kerry Bensman can tell us quite a lot! Kerry, who at the time

worked for the late Barry James Folsom, will share the history of the Rainbow 100, DEC's relationship with Microsoft, and his own anecdotes about the PC industry in the early days.

Kerry's background: After graduating from M.I.T. with a B.S. in E.E., Kerry joined DEC in December 1969. As a mill rat, he spent a couple of years in TOPS-10 and then transferred to Denver as a Software Specialist, covering one fourth of the U.S. He was promoted to Northern California District SWS Manager in Northern California and then Northeast Regional SWS Manager in Waltham. After a short stint in Customer Services Marketing, he joined the Rainbow Group as Group Product and Applications Manager. He was responsible for the Rainbow 100B and CP/M and MS-DOS.

After the cancellation of the Rainbow, Kerry moved on to TOEM as the Basic Industries Manager and left the company in 1990, a few months after completing the Harvard Business School International Senior Managers Program. He then spent a couple of years at Wang Laboratories and later relocated to Boulder, CO as Director of Software Business for IBM's Printing Systems Division. After leaving high tech, Kerry served six years as a City Councilman for Lafayette CO, and now lives in the St. Louis MO area, enjoying his family, including a young granddaughter.

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Coming up in 2023: We're firming up some events in February, but here is one **SAVE THE DATE** - on June 11, 2023 we will have another family baseball game at Worcester MA's Polar Park, featuring the Red Sox minor league team the WooSox. Last year everyone enjoyed the game and the terrific all-you-can-eat BBQ so it was deemed a winner on all counts!

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A group of GIA Information Technology alums, organized by Steve Webber, got together on December 9 for a reunion. They worked in the Acton Nagog and AKO facilities. These individuals (and others) were responsible for the AKO Data Center & Telecom operations

support for multiple AKO facilities as well as the Regional support for Hong Kong, Australia, Japan, Canada, and Latin America HQ. Others were providing GIA Applications support for the geography.

Left side: George Faucher, Carrie Barrett, Paul Connaughton, Joyce Nishinaga, Steve Webber, Bill Thompson, and Maddie Atkins

Right side: Dave Thomas, Kurt Migrants, Tom McPhee, Bruce Blanchard, Mike McMurray, Jim Cavanagh, and Jean Thompson

[Here's a link to a larger-sized photo so you can see the folks in the back!](#)

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## Digital and the Industry

### DIGITAL QUIZ

Jack Mileski offers the following test of your Digital knowledge: if you worked for DEC, what is the meaning of this message?

3NO NI 77V

Send your answers to [info@deconnection.org](mailto:info@deconnection.org). We'll let you know how many get it right. Answer next issue.

Thanks to Tony Diconzo for submitting the following resource:

Members may have heard that there is an Internet Archive, a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites, and more. But they may may not be aware that the Archive contains the BITSAVERS.ORG Documents Library of some 19,000+ documents that are related to Digital Equipment Corporation.

I have used it to retrieve manuals related to products I managed when at DEC, sales brochures, a ton of DECUS related into and even internal documents. When appropriate I have left review comments, often being the only person to have done so.

Check it out. It will bring back a lot of memories. Access is free, contributions are welcome.

[https://archive.org/details/bitsavers\\_dec](https://archive.org/details/bitsavers_dec)

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## **Lost & Found**

Joe Micali would like to be in touch with Brad Kennedy: In 1982 I was working in the Small Systems CSSE team on a field service diagnostic tool that was called "Techmate". It was to facilitate rapid repair of LSI-11 based systems. Brad Kennedy was the design engineer (in Brad's case read "significant out of the box thinker") associated with Techmate. Our CSSE group was working with Brad in developing diagnostic scripts for Techmate. I can't recall who was the Senior VP who canceled the project. The reasoning for stopping the program was if Techmate got into the hands of third-party repair companies it would help third parties fix LSI-11 based systems. In the end this 'fear thinking' resulted in the demise of a great idea. I can't remember where Brad Kennedy landed at DEC after Techmate. I do know he was still employed at DEC in the 1996 timeframe as I saw him at the Spring DECUS in St. Louis, MO. Contact Joe Micali at [jmicali@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmicali@bellsouth.net).

## **DEC Connection Member News**

Welcome to our new and renewing members during December and January: Betsy Anderson (CO), Jerry Bernath (FL), Glenn Boston (NH), Angela Cossette (MA), Geoffrey Darnton (UK), Bruce Filgate (MA), Judy Finman (MA), Royce Fuller (MA), Wayne Gaskill (FL), Alan Goldsworthy (MA), Coleen Goleman (NH), Cindy Hamilton (NH), Dick Helliwell (NV), Jim Higgins (MA), Don Houle (NH), Ray Humphrey (FL), Sue Kinzelman (NM), Steve Kline (FL), Annalisa Lafferty (MA), Bob Leigh (MA), Lois Levick (MA), Peter Marcus (CT), Derrell Piper (CA), John McClelland (CO), Jerry Patton (NC), Peter Ross (MA), Tom Stockebrand (FL), David Toub (NH), Walter Tucker (FL), Steve Webber (MA), and Cynthia Nadreau Whitty (MA).



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 DEC Connection member **Tom Stockebrand** writes that he's an "old timer": Joined DEC in 1960 as badge 614, with 330 employees at the time. Retired in 1990. My groups or I developed several products over the years: DECtape, VT50-52, Ceramic substrates. Groups got fired for low sales in first years of introduction. Backpanel wiring machines. Lotsa good stories. Still alive and kicking at 91. Working on Python code projects using Raspberry Pies and Ham Radio. [stocky@alumni.caltech.edu](mailto:stocky@alumni.caltech.edu)

Note from Editor: Tom is a modest gentleman. Instead of "old timer", read: respected industry pioneer. We look forward to hearing more from him!

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## 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:

*John Lamb, Montreal ON, 23 January 2023*

John Shebell, 75, Stow MA, 7 December 2022

*John Kowall, 84, Mobile AL, 23 November 2022*

Sherri (Long) Murdoch, Colorado Springs, 16 November 2022

*Leta S. Levett, 70, Colorado Springs, 11 November 2022*

Colonel Anthony (Tony) M. Jezior, USA, (Ret.), 88, Cary NC, 14 October 2022

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

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## Website Features and Updates

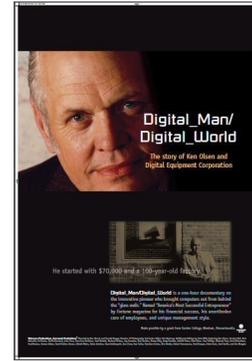
- **Topics of Interest** tab: We've added a button on the left-hand menu that takes you to articles that have appeared in past newsletters. Here are some sample topics: Tech Talks; Digital Videos; Medicare Seminar & Research - 6/20; AON Exchange Feedback from retirees - 10/18; Harvard Business School's 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/>



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- **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](mailto: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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