

Carl Bulger presided.

Presentation by William White



Photo courtesy of Dennis Edgington

Inovalon <http://www.inovalon.com/pages/default.aspx> was initially named MedAssurance. It started in Annapolis but ran out of parking and office space and moved to Bowie across Route 197 from the main entrance to the Bowie Town Center. It also has facilities in Medford, Annapolis, Columbia, and Herndon, VA. It is the third largest employer in Bowie. It was established in 2009 by a Johns Hopkins Ph.D with the goal of improving the quality of medical care. It currently has two areas of funding: health insurance companies and two pharmacy chains, Walgreens and CVS. Inovalon is organized into four organizations which provide software development, IT Operations, infrastructure, e.g., networks, laptops, etc. and program management.

Its approach is to digitize patient's medical records in doctor's offices, every hospital that gets reimbursed by Medicare and Medicaid, and patient care facilities and to consolidate and analyze the data and correlate it zip code, gender, age, treatment procedures, etc. It has developed 16 computer

applications to support its mission. In-house software development uses Microsoft software tools and Microsoft operating systems on its computers.

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) has increased the demand for digitized patient and treatment data because it reimburses hospitals based on their performance which is reflected in patient and treatment data. It also helps to detect fraud, waste, and abuse.

Patient data must be zealously protected. Inovalon protects its data with the best and latest malware prevention and detection tools. They encrypt their data, backup their data electronically and transmit it to Iron Mountain as well as shipping backups to their own offsite locations.

If you wish to comment on Mr. White's presentation, you may email twharton@Inovalon.

The Senior Center and the Computer Classroom/Lab instructors are seeking volunteers to assist instructors. Students frequently get sidetracked from the instructor's presentation or the rest of the class by some problem. An assistant in the back of the room can be summoned by the student and can often quickly overcome the barrier so the student can get back in synchronization.

Carl Bulger's son demonstrated the wisdom of doing frequent backups. His laptop crashed. Carl removed the son's hard drive, attached to a USB adapter, and was able to copy all of the files from the hard drive.

Tom McCabe wanted to update his Firefox browser or some other Mozilla software. He googled "Mozilla" and clicked on one of the items that came up. Unfortunately, it wasn't the genuine Mozilla.org site and it downloaded some malware which even wiped out the boot sector on his computer. Fortunately, he frequently backs up his computers with Acronis software.

Tom and Bob Blum got into a discussion concerning the compatibility of running two different antivirus software applications simultaneously on the same computer. Blum says that they are both degraded if you try to run them together. However, you can successfully run an antivirus app along with an antispyware app such as MalwareBytes and you can run two or more antispyware apps on the same computer.

Bob Blum also recommends that you not use Java unless an app absolutely requires it. Then download Java, use it for that app, then uninstall it. Java is prone to security breaches and HTML5 now provides many of the functions that formerly were supplied only by Java.

We extend our sympathy to John Jones, whose wife of 61 years, Marjorie, died on January 14, 2014.

