

HHC 2012 – Houston or Nashville

V4 July 17, 2012 Update: I didn't edit the text previously posted to avoid confusion. **We have a Conference Venue change.** We will no longer hold the conference at Griffin Technology. We have reserved two rooms at the hotel – one for the conference and one for the meals. The cost is minimal and this will make it easier for everyone. You will no longer have to rent a car because the hotel provides a shuttled to/from the airport.

Our two remaining issues are to find a sound system and an LCD projector (with spare bulb).

As I write this we have 23 people on the registration list with a probability of 21. Everything is coming together nicely. Be sure to register so we are able to plan. –rjn.

Introduction

Our formal HHC announcement is later than usual this year. The HHC weekend dates are easy to know because we have a formula that we use⁽¹⁾. HP has provided us with the Conference facilities for the last five Conferences and we had originally planned to use an HP Facility this year in Houston. HHC List members⁽²⁾ offered a substantial list of options, but when we⁽³⁾ met with HP at CES in January they suggested Houston. The Houston site is the old Compaq site and apparently some of the old Compaq culture still exists, and some of the requirements⁽⁴⁾ we have for an HHC Conference were not compatible with their policies. After a lot of discussion the Committee, decided that we had to use “Plan B.” Most of the HHC List people favored Nashville and at the “last minute” we made the decision to go to Nashville. Gene Wright works at Griffin Technology and he approached the president who approved using Griffin for the Conference. I won't go into all the details of the planning but HHC 2012 was a special challenge because Nashville does not fit our ideal conference location⁽⁵⁾.

Nashville is most popular

The HHC 2012 website has a larger map that shows the general layout. One goal is to keep the hotel rooms as much below \$100 per night as possible and we did again this year. Since Griffin will not charge us to use their Conference rooms we save at least \$1500 in hotel meeting room costs (\$30 per person). Locating the hotel and Conference near freeways makes travel easier and faster. Nashville is a very famous US city.

Gene spent a lot of time examining various hotel locations before coming up with the final list which was then evaluated to the Holiday Inn Express.

Most HHC attendees have never been to Nashville and since we have foreign attendees, this location offers an opportunity “for something completely different.”

HHC Website



Fig. 1 - The HHC site is “between” airport and hotel.

Once the decision was made and the contract signed, Joseph Horn was quickly ready with the HHC website. What most people don't know is that Joseph hand-codes the website; he does not use an expensive website building program. The HHC website is clean and simple to navigate. In fact it may even "confuse" some people because it is not cluttered with "eye candy" or advertisements. It is simply organized, and between the HHC 2012 website and all the others historically available since 1999, there is a great deal of HP User-Community history available. One nice website feature is that you may always return "home" by clicking on the HHC logo at the top of the page.

What can we expect this year?

The HP user community continues to develop new ideas and projects. We are not prepared at this time to provide a list, but stay tuned. We had a very full schedule last year⁽⁶⁾ and we will follow suit again this year. There are many ongoing projects that need updating, new books to talk about, and even a new HP Calculator Poster from Rick Furr. Once the peak of summer passes and the HP User Community starts responding to the Conference announcement, we will provide an update. We don't have a history with our recently renovated hotel so I can't say how the reservation space will be in terms of availability, i.e. how rigid will be the August 21 cutoff date. I do know that several users who haven't been to a Conference for a quite a while will be attending because the location is convenient for them. Even the HP people seemed to like Nashville better. It is always good to see old friends.

Be sure to register ASAP on the website (and the hotel) with your probability of attending.

On behalf of the HHC Committee, we hope to see you all in Nashville Tennessee.

X < > Y,

Richard

Notes:

- (1) *We start with September 15th because that is the traditional date of the summer season ending. Travel and hotel costs are often lower after the 15th. The next Saturday is the date of the Conference unless it conflicts with a religious holiday (or perhaps, it has never happened, a Committee member has a very serious conflict). The following weekend is then used. It is uncommon to have the Conference in October. The only exception at <http://hhuc.us/> is HHC 2009. This schedule avoids any conflict with the UK HPCC meeting. Because we "share" leadership, this allows everyone to attend both "conferences" if desired. See the "new" very nice HPCC website at: <http://www.hpcc.org/>*
- (2) *Eric Smith maintains an email list that any HP user may sign up to participate in HHC discussions. Informal announcements are made to this list. See: <http://lists.brouhaha.com/mailman/listinfo/hhc> for historical information and to sign up. Eric also provides HPCC with a list but they usually depend on their website at: <http://www.hpcc.org/>. The official HHC website is at: hhuc.us and all HHC websites since 1999 are linked there.*
- (3) *Richard J. Nelson and Jake Schwartz are long time CES attendees with over 45 shows attended to date. We have photographed and documented all of these CES shows. We met with the Calculator GM and WW Sales Managers to discuss HHC 2012. They suggested Houston.*

- (4) *We want to start early and leave late on Saturday. This is sometimes a security issue for facilities not accustomed to our odd hours. We want to bring all kinds of advanced electronics equipment and of course everyone has a digital camera. We also need lots of tables, etc. etc.*
- (5) *The ideal HHC conference is close to a major airport HUB for lowest airfares and to maximize the opportunity for direct flights. The Conference facilities should permit all attendees to spend as much time together as possible. Since time is always critical, the truism is “Plan to sleep after the Conference.” This means that we ideally take our meals in place to save hours of Conference- related meal travel time. Ideally the Conference Facilities should be close to the airport so a car rental is not necessary.*
- (6) *For a detailed report of HHC 2011, see the ten-page article in **HP Solve** January 2012 Issue #26 page 10. The two programming contests are described in detail along with photos and descriptions of presentations. **HP Solve** issues are at: <http://h20331.www2.hp.com/Hpsub/cache/580500-0-0-225-121.html>. The article is at: http://h20331.www2.hp.com/hpsub/downloads/HP_Calculator_eNL_01_January_2012.pdf*