

## Welcome

Summer is here and things are heating up. In this newsletter, I have provided a summary of recent VITA projects.

On top of the list is the rollout of our improved VITA website. Read on further to learn about the new features. Check the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) under the "Members Only" tab on the website for more information. Fine tuning will be going on as I optimize the improved site.

Many other improvements are on the drawing board. I will be reaching out to each individual member company to gather your inputs. I look forward to hearing from everyone as we work as a team to make VITA the best organization possible. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have concerns, suggestions, or questions. Unless I am on my bike, I will be happy to talk with you!

Jerry Gipper

VITA Executive Director  
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## VITA Mission

Promoting *the very concept of open technology as embodied in the many standards currently under development within the VITA Standards Organization (VSO).*

## VITA Workspace

The rollout of the new [VITA Workspace](#) has been completed. Most of the VITA Standards Organization (VSO) participants have setup access to their account. Emails, document posting, balloting, and comments are now being managed through our workspace.

Every VITA member should have at least one active participant or observer with the VSO that has access to the VITA Workspace. This is a key benefit of being a member of VITA. If your company does not have access, we will be reaching out to you to identify your technical contact(s) to set them up with an account.

VITA Workspace improves our communications, document storage, action items logging and tracking, balloting, and the commenting process during the development of specifications. It will make the entire process easier for the working group chairs to manage. As we get comfortable with the tools, we will be expanding the capabilities to further improve our efficiency. We look forward to everyone's support as we settle into this new workspace.

## VITA Website Update

An improved VITA website implemented with an online membership and content management tool is going live on June 21. Most of the content stays the same but we will now be using this tool for the website content and membership management, event registration, and "members only" access to content that is not part of the VITA Workspace.

## VITA Websites

VITA Website  
[www.vita.com](http://www.vita.com)

VITA Workspace  
[workspace.vita.com](http://workspace.vita.com)

"Members Only"  
Individual Login

VITA Workspace  
Individual Login

- Membership management
- Pay dues
- Company info and logo
- Event registration
- Marketing forums
- Events calendar

- VSO Process
- Observe status
- Email management
- Document management
- Balloting
- Meeting attendance
- Technical forums
- Working Group calendar

A key feature of the improved website is the ability for members to manage their own company access to the site. Each company has a membership administrator assigned. This administrator has control over who within a company has access to "Members Only" information.

Your company administrator can:

- Add a company logo and a short description of your company that will be displayed in the member directory.
- Renew membership online or with alternate payment methods. Unfortunately we do not have the ability yet to add a separate contact for dues payment.
- Add additional company contacts to the company membership. These will be used for various marketing activities and for those who wish to stay on top of VITA activities outside of the VSO.

Additional features include:

- Member directory directly tied to membership status. If your dues are current, your access to the website is active.
- Event registration that makes the process easier for registering for VSO meetings and other VITA functions. Fees may be paid online with credit cards or PayPal. Events can be easily downloaded to your calendar.

This membership management tool will make it much easier for us to keep contacts current, improve our information flow, and address other communication issues that have challenged us over the years. The website will be undergoing several other improvements and feature enhancements in the upcoming months.

### **Members Only Content**

Members only content has shifted around a bit as we have rolled out the new website. No content has been removed. Here is a summary.

**Approved Standards download page** for members only moved to VITA Workspace.

**Submit News/Products** - moved to new site under "Members Only" tab.

**Logos** - moved to improved site under "Members Only" tab.

**Presentations** - moved to new site under the "Members Only" tab.

The following requires your original company-wide VITA Members' Only ID and Password.

- **VSO Working Group web pages** - pre May 2014. Moved to new site under "Members Only/Archives" tab. Material relevant to ongoing work moved to VITA Workspace.

- **VSO Meeting Minutes** - pre May 2014. For archival purposes only. Moved to improved site under "Members Only/Archives" tab. New minutes posted in VITA Workspace.
- **VITA Discussion Board** - pre May 2014. Moved to improved site under "Members Only/Archives" tab. Replaced by VITA Workspace.

Contact Jerry Gipper if you need help with access.

The product directory and member news are still being supported by the previous website.

You can request a login ID by registering as a "VITA Member Contact". We will assign you to your company membership. Your email becomes your ID, you control your own password. We eventually hope to make one ID and password grant access to both the VITA website "Members Only" section and the VITA Workspace.

### **Login IDs and Passwords**

VITA Workspace typically uses the first part of your email address as your ID while VITA.com uses your entire email address. You have control over your password and may set your password to be the same for both.

### **Approved Standards Download**

We have moved the member access to approved specifications to the VITA Workspace. A document folder named "Approved Standards for Download" in the VITA Standards Organization group has all of the approved specifications available for download for member use only. Please respect our distribution policy by encouraging non-VITA members to purchase specifications from the VITA Store. The new system provides us with the ability to monitor the download activity.

### **Email Lists**

#### **VSO**

Over the years VITA has used a number of different methods for managing email lists. All of them have been labor intensive and always out of date. Most recently the VSO has been using GroupSpaces to manage email lists for all of the working groups. Going forward VITA Workspace will manage email lists for the VSO. The GroupSpaces email distribution lists are no longer valid and should not be used for communication to members. The Groupspaces email lists will be shut down in July when our contract expires.

### Membership and Marketing

Membership contacts have historically been in a Filemaker database. Marketing contacts have been maintained in a separate Excel spreadsheet. The new membership management tools will allow each member company to assign an administrator who will maintain the contacts for each of their companies. The burden of keeping the contacts current will fall on each of the member companies. For some of you, this will be easy. For others, it might mean a bit of housekeeping. I will be directly contacting each company to help you through this process as it is very important to have the right member contacts with access.

VITA policy is to NOT make any email lists publicly available or sell them to third parties. The new tools will allow members to contact each other as necessary but VITA holds all contact information as private and off limits to non-VITA solicitations.

### Calendars and Event Registration

With our new tools, there are now two calendar locations. The primary event calendar is on the VITA website. The secondary calendar is for VSO use to schedule working group meetings that do not require registration.

The primary calendar makes event registration much easier. Events that accept registrations will be enabled to allow an attendee to select the event, complete the online registration, make an online payment, and then download the event automatically to your personal calendar.



### Lollie's Retirement

With the close of June comes Lollie's retirement. Many of you have worked with Lollie over the past years. She has been instrumental to the success and smooth operation of VITA for nearly all of its 30 years of existence. Please feel free to drop her a line at [lollie@vita.com](mailto:lollie@vita.com) or even better, post a comment to an article "[The heart of VITA](#)" that I have posted at VITA Technologies.

### VITA Turns 30

This year is the 30th anniversary of the launch of the VME Manufacturer's Group which became VMEbus International Trade Association. I don't have any firm plans for a celebration yet but would love to hear ideas from members.



John and Lollie  
at Embedded Tech Trends 2014

VITA

[www.vita.com](http://www.vita.com)  
[workspace.vita.com](http://workspace.vita.com)