

PMI Region 14 Chapter News & Events

A summary of Celebrating and Sharing all things good within our region-

Compiled by John Watson, Region 14 Mentor

VOL .XV

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Greetings Chapter Leaders,

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this month's edition and congratulations to your accomplishments and sharing some of your innovative approaches.

We had our first Presidents Conference call this week. Some of the highlights of the call were the discussions around the Guest Pass Program, Charter Renewals, the new Chapter Reporting System, submitting for Chapter Awards Programs- some good chapter updates, questions and how we can share them more often. Below is a snippet of information that was shared after our call for directions to our community site- ask your President for more of the call's information

Log into www.pmi.org site using your PMI provided ID and password and go to "myPMI" in the top left banner or in the middle of the page click on Go to your dashboard. Click on Communities, then My Online Communities, where you will see Region 14 and the Global Community Leadership sites. Or you can go directly to <http://region14.vc.pmi.org/> and also use your PMI provided ID and password. It has a place for discussions among your peers, and the ability to **set your alerts for the discussion groups** which I strongly encourage you to do. Start a discussion, or post a question- but most importantly each chapter needs to share this with your leadership teams

The next scheduled call is for April 30th which most likely needs adjusting, since we are meeting in Augusta later that week. The next Region Wide call is March 26, hope you can make that one.

Hottest News for Region !!May 2-4, 2013 Regional Leadership Conference- Augusta, Georgia

The Augusta Team is working hard for a fun filled event and there is some incentive to registering early

The Region 14 conference website is <http://2013r14Augusta.wordpress.com> and on that site you can find the links to the hotel and conference registration. Be sure to take advantage of the **Early Bird Pricing**.

The site and program is still a work in process, , regarding agendas, speakers, etc. it will

Please be patient as we continue to work on the program agenda, and be sure sign up for the updates which will be happening up until the end of the event and beyond with conference closeout information.

A survey was sent out to every Region 14 chapter Presidents on Feb 1 and we closed it on the 28th of the month. Out of our 24 chapters, 8 did not respond, 2 chapters 100% complete, 5 most completed and 9 mostly incomplete. Although that is not so good news, the really good news is we have a good foundation for the structuring our breakout groups and conference agenda to make it a good learning experience.

Communications- If you would like to be removed from this list please let me know and, please share this with your board as I am sure I do not have everyone's contact information

If you could please resend me the current single email address so I could reach every board member it would be greatly appreciated.

That is all for now, enjoy the read below and as usual if you have any comments, questions, suggestions or cheap shots- I would love to hear from you!

Take care!

John Watson

Region 14 Mentor and Editor

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CHAPTER UPDATES:

NORTH ALABAMA - [HTTP://WWW.NORTHALABAPMI.ORG/](http://www.northalabapmi.org/)

With membership having recently hit an all-time high of 575, PMI-NAC continues to offer a robust schedule of Monthly Luncheons and PMP Exam Prep Courses, and is also considering a breakfast option.

On Feb 19th, we enjoyed an engaging presentation by Ms. Rose Holshouser of US Army Materiel Command CIO/G-6 on her experience as a Government Program Manager supporting AMC's Communications Requirements during the difficult Base Realignment & Closure (BRAC) period in which her organization completed a move from Ft. Belvoir VA to Huntsville AL. The challenges she dealt with called to mind the criticality of numerous Project Management functions such as clear communications, thorough requirements definition, adjusting the baseline and building in flexibility to the plan and schedule. Afterward, we held a Q&A session in which Rose was able to pass on her experiences having worked on both the Industry and Government sides of Federal IT issues.

With our current PMP Exam passing rate from the Fall Prep Course at 100% (10/10), we are already looking forward to another successful PMP Exam Prep Course being planned for April 1st through May 23rd. We have already arranged the venue, have solidified most of the instructors and are starting to take registrations. We offer this course as a service, keeping costs low (roughly \$400) in an effort to support our members who might be pursuing the credential out-of-pocket and/or may be in between positions.

Based on feedback and discussions with other chapters, our VP Programs, Kevin Hoey, is looking into the feasibility and supportability of our starting a bi-monthly or quarterly breakfast speaker to provide the option for those who cannot make the monthly luncheons. Feedback from other chapters at LIM and R14 has shown us that chapters typically bring roughly 20% of membership to luncheons, but we usually draw only 10%. We realize we have untapped membership out there and will be trying other options to engage them.

We look forward to interchanges with other chapters at the May R14 in Augusta where we can continue to trade notes in the interest of better engaging our members. Tentatively we have planned to send our Chapter President, Past-Pres, Pres-Elect, VP Programs, VP Professional Development, and VP Membership.

MONTGOMERY ALABAMA - [HTTP://WWW.PMIMONTGOMERY.ORG](http://www.pmimontgomery.org)

February's dinner/chapter meeting was a great success as our emphasis on inviting student participation was rewarded by several new attendees from Auburn University at Montgomery. Our speaker, Dr. Gene Akers, provided a great presentation on developing mentor/protégé relationships within the program and project management domain.

This month's meeting will feature Mr. Craig Smith, PMP, TPE who will deliver a presentation on "What It Takes to Build a Plane." Mr. Smith, a Director of Programs for aerospace companies, will unveil the inside world of how these companies plan, design, and build the most technologically advanced aircraft from the "Queen of the Skies," the 747, to the newest most technologically advanced commercial airliner, the 787. He will share the unique characteristics of the aerospace side of program management, some insights related to the planes on which we fly, and little known insights on how large aerospace companies operate globally with their suppliers.

Future chapter meeting presentations/programs coming up include topics in Project Management Negotiations, Mobile Application Development, Theater Production Project Management, AGILE Software Development Management Techniques and a Seminar on WBS and EVM.

The chapter wants to take this opportunity to recognize the special relationship we have with Auburn University Montgomery (AUM) which has provided professional development training and specifically project management related training for our community. Betty Corbin, Montgomery Chapter member and contact point for AUM's offerings, has been a diligent supporter of both PMI and vitally important professional

training for our area. AUM has a long legacy in Central Alabama for providing professional development training and continuing education for professionals like our chapter members.

The Montgomery Chapter board continues to make tremendous progress on the organization, processes and policies needed to grow our chapter, to include the following emphases: updating officer job descriptions, designing a new Professional Development Award, developing a systematic volunteer program and researching “new media” to improve communication with area project managers. The chapter is contemplating utilizing our experiences in this area to develop a presentation and documentation on revitalizing and optimizing the governance and ongoing operation of a small- to medium-sized chapter.

As we look forward to the Region 14 conference, a list of participants will be drafted at the current Board Meeting.

BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA - [HTTP://WWW.PMIBIRMINGHAM.ORG](http://www.pmibirmingham.org)

CHAPTER TRANSITION

- Complete Community Site Updates is in progress

CHAPTER REORGANIZATION

- Chapter Reorganization approved on Monday, January 7, 2013
- Request for Component Name Change from PMI Birmingham Chapter to PMI Central Alabama Chapter. Would be effective with the approval of the PMI Community Multi-Year Business Plan by PMI GOC as part of the Chapter Reorganization.

CHAPTER WEBSITE:

- Chapter is researching how to record chapter meeting speakers to broadcast from the website, thereby gaining the ability to reach every member of PMI Birmingham. The chapter is looking for other chapters that have this ability or assistance in doing so. For those chapters that can assist, please contact Pamela Smith, VP of Communications, at vpcomm@pmibirmingham.org.

Contributor: Charlie L. Boyd, President

CENTRAL FLORIDA - [HTTP://WWW.PMICFC.ORG/](http://www.pmicfc.org/)

The Central Florida chapter has quite a few exciting opportunities, not only for our members, but for any project managers in the region. Our February dinner event was a huge success with over 110 attendees. We will be holding a dinner March 5th before our big 2013 symposium with our opening keynote speakers: Pici & Pici

We are so excited to announce our **2nd Annual Symposium** – we invite all leaders interested in project management to attend – we have a discounted hotel rate with the Hilton Orlando and discounted tickets to Sea World for you and your family to enjoy – early bird pricing is available until 3/1/2013.

This dynamic event aims to bring the leaders in project management the appropriate knowledge and tools necessary to systematically yield the best business results. Attendees will interact with speakers to discuss their specific success stories and lessons learned in the projects they have undertaken.

WHAT: The 2013 Project Management Institute Central Florida Symposium

WHERE: Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway Orlando, FL 32819

WHEN: Friday, April 12, 2013 – Saturday, April 13, 2013

For more information check out our [website](#) – and register today!!!!

NORTHEAST FLORIDA - [HTTP://WWW.PMI-NEFL.ORG/](http://www.pmi-nefl.org/)

. On February 18, 2013 the NEFL PMI Chapter hosted Frank P. Saladis, PMP when he presented the “Project Artist”. Project Managers learned how to generate more useful alternatives to project problems and learn about techniques that will assist in obtaining shareholder acceptance. A guest brought a car and Frank also entertained the group with Project Portfolio Blue Ballad

For the past year, the NEFL PMI Chapter has been facilitating **FREE**- PMP study groups. This has been a value add to the members and to the community. The group has been using PMBOK and Rita Mulcahy's PMP Exam Prep as a guide for the group. Since the study groups began in late 2010, 6 study groups have been conducted with 95% pass rate of the participants that took the exam. The most recent study group began in January of this year with a group of 24 in attendance. This is the largest study group to date. These PMP study groups are held every Thursday night starting at 6:00 p.m. at the DeVry University. Cheryl Reynolds, NEFL VP Treasury & Finance, is the organizer. For more information visit the education section on our website.

Our Double PDU events are very popular and have increased our dinner meeting attendance

Upcoming Events

March 18, 2013 – Dinner Meeting (Double Presentation Event)

Speaker – Donna Brighton, PMP

Topic #1 Change Leadership & the Emergence of Change Management

Topic #2 Building Strength Based Teams

April 15, 2013 – Dinner Meeting (Double Presentation Event)

Speakers – Joe and Janice Lucas

Topic #1 – Project Negotiations: Deal Yourself a Winning Hand

Topic #2 – Pardon Me – Your Personality is Showing!

For more information see our website <http://www.pmi-nefl.org>

Submitted by: Jean Mace, PMP, VP – Communications

Email: communciations@pmi-nefl.org

SOUTH FLORIDA - [HTTP://WWW.SOUTHFLORIDAPMI.ORG/](http://www.southfloridapmi.org/)

The South Florida Chapter held the first chapter dinner of the year on February 21st. We hosted excellent and engaging PM Tools and Keynote speakers at Westin Hotel in Fort Lauderdale with over 120 people in attendance. The topics covered were: Essential Problem Solving and Decision-Making Tools for Project Managers and Thriving Within the Ever-Changing Role of a Project Manager. At this dinner meeting, we piloted a go-green initiative by emailing the PDU certificates to attendees instead of printing them out. We not only saved trees, but also printing costs.

Upcoming educational events include an Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP) Prep Course scheduled for March 23rd, Managing Virtual Teams Course scheduled for April 6th, and our signature event of the year, our Professional Development Day, scheduled for April 26th.

Our IT Strategy for 2013 is to focus on outsourcing some IT tasks to allow our chapter to focus on improving the tools and content to better serve the members. Our chapter is moving towards role based email accounts to help ensure easy access to the needs of the Board and to help facilitate maintenance of our system.

Work is underway to provide the Board with better statistics on the website and the visitors. This will enable the Board to quickly answer questions from potential partners and sponsors. Our main goal this year is to improve the services offered to our membership and Board of Directors.

SPACE COAST - [HTTP://WWW.PMISPACECOAST.ORG/](http://www.pmispacecoast.org/)

Our February, 2013 Chapter Dinner Meeting included a presentation by Mr. Scott Fass, PMP, Managing Director of PricewaterhouseCoopers. He spoke to the membership about Finding Leading Practices of Successful Companies and applying them to your own company. Mr. Fass shared interesting trends in the Project Management profession. Many members found the survey data informative and in some cases sound validation of the project management challenges they are facing in their own organization. The presenter provided the Chapter with the ability to access the full survey results and offered to dissect and analyze specific scenarios which were not already included in the results.

This year the Space Coast FL Chapter is diligently working to develop operating procedures for each board member's position/function. This will allow smoother transition from one board member to another during transition periods.

The Chapter is looking forward to our next Networking Social on March 26th. We hope

that this event will host as many members as the last two socials.

The Chapter is hosting another 3-day PMI Space Coast PMP Prep Course to prepare more of our members to take the PMP exam. The course is being taught by Frank Saladis, PMP, President of Project Imaginers, Inc. Registration is now open for the April 25-27, 2013 course.

Upcoming PMI Space Coast Florida Events:

March 26, 2013: Networking Social at the Crowne Plaza on the ocean front deck

April 25-27, 2013: PMI Space Coast PMP Prep Course at The Knowledge Exchange

For additional information on PMI Space Coast FL Chapter, please contact Chapter President Rick Baker, PMP at president@pmispacecoast.org.

Contributed by: Laurie A. Lashomb, PMP

SUN COAST - [HTTP://WWW.SUNCOASTPMI.ORG/](http://www.suncoastpmi.org/)

TALLAHASSEE - [HTTP://WWW.PMITLH.ORG/](http://www.pmitlh.org/)

TAMPA BAY - [HTTP://WWW.PMI-TAMPABAY.ORG/](http://www.pmi-tampabay.org/)

The Tampa Chapter had a great turnout at our New Member Orientation before our February Dinner. Our February Dinner Speaker was Cory Foy of 8th Light Software, and his Topic was "Demystifying Agile". Our 2013 Spring PMP Prep Class begins March 23rd. We've announced an in-depth two day Scrum Course in Tampa presented by Braintrust Consulting that begins on February 25th. We continue to promote volunteer opportunities for the chapter on our website, as well as through personal networking.

We've announced the "Exploring the Agile Lifecycle" PDU Interactive Seminar set for April 5th. We've planned an additional PDD Interactive Seminar on "The Practice of Program Management" on July 19th. We have an Agile Certified Practitioner (ACP) Preparation Seminar scheduled for May 11th and 12th. Our 2012 annual member survey is now available for download from our website, the overall results were very positive.

Brian Sayers our incoming President for 2013 has started a Project Management Strategic Initiative for our chapter with the intent of improving processes and the overall performance of our chapter.

EMERALD COAST FLORIDA CHAPTER - [HTTP://WWW.PMIEMERALDCOASTFL.ORG/](http://www.pmiemeraldcoastfl.org/)

The PMI Emerald Coast Florida Chapter is making preparations for the Spring Symposium on Saturday, April 6th at the Emerald Coast Convention Center in beautiful

Fort Walton Beach, Florida. The theme is 'Creating & Maintaining Your Competitive Advantage'. Breakout sessions will be on such topics as earn value management, risk management, and various pitfalls and systemic problems that Project Managers face. We would like to invite Region 14 members to this event.

For more information on the PMI Emerald Coast FL Chapter, please contact Chapter President, Caroline Pepa at president@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org or visit our website at <http://pmiemeraldcoastfl.org/> .

Contributed by: Steven Williams, PMP

ATLANTA - [HTTP://WWW.PMIATLANTA.ORG/](http://www.pmiatlanta.org/)

Fulton County School Initiative-Education Committee is working with Fulton County Schools to help in the area of employee development by offering project management training to teachers. With the formation of the new School Governance Council (comprised of parents, teachers, school employees and the principal), Fulton County Schools recognizes the need to improve the use of technology tools and has current and future projects scheduled to meet those objectives. The PMI Education Committee is working with Fulton County Schools to help in the area of employee development by offering project management training to teachers.

Joint Professional Development Day-IIBA and PMI-Professional Development Day is slated for May 18th at Cobb Galleria, and will be hosted by IIBA and PMI. TAG will also provide some speakers as well as attendees. Save the Date emails have been disseminated and a new website will be up and running shortly. More details forthcoming.

Volunteer Recognition Dinner-Scheduled for March 8th – this dinner recognizes volunteers from 2012 and the importance of what they bring to the PMI organization.

Healthcare Forum-PMI Atlanta started a Healthcare Forum in 2013 with Kaiser Permanente in January and February. In March, we held another successful Healthcare Forum at Philips Healthcare in Alpharetta. Healthcare is a major industry in Atlanta and the Chapter will look at perhaps holding two Healthcare Forums on a monthly basis – one in Buckhead and one in Alpharetta.

Upcoming Events:

- Project of the Year in June
- Recruiter Panel in July
- Region 14 Leadership Conference participation – May
- Professional Development Day – May
- Strategy Meeting - June

COLUMBUS - [HTTP://WWW.PMICOLUMBUSGA.ORG](http://www.pmicolumbusga.org)

SAVANNAH RIVER - [HTTP://WWW.PMIAUGUSTAAIKEN.ORG/](http://www.pmiaugustaaiken.org/)

COASTAL EMPIRE - [HTTP:// WWW.PMISAVANNAH.COM](http://www.pmisavannah.com)

. Last month's chapter meeting featured an excellent presentation on the Advanced Cabin Management System for the Gulfstream G-650! The leadership focus for March continues to be the PgMP certification cohort. We've had (and continue to have) conversations with potential cohort leaders, boot camp leaders and vendors. We've relaxed the start date to take advantage of the exposure at the upcoming Region 14 Conference in early May; the cohort will start shortly afterwards. See the [Region 14 Community Leadership Site Active Forums](#) for ongoing discussion on the topic. We'd like to see as many people from Region 14 take advantage of this opportunity and join the 855 PgMPs worldwide!

For more information please contact Reinhold Gerbsch, Chapter President, at rgerbsch@southuniversity.edu

CHARLESTON - [HTTP://WWW.PMI-CHARLESTON.ORG/](http://www.pmi-charleston.org/)

We have recently updated our website – please visit us at www.pmi-charleston.org

Upcoming events:

March Monthly meeting (3/21) featuring Dr. James T. Brown. James T. Brown Ph.D., is president of SEBA® Solutions Inc., a Registered Education Provider for the Project Management Institute. He also has the online training portal for project managers and is the author of The Handbook of Program Management published by McGraw-Hill. James has a patent for a project scheduling methodology, and has received numerous awards including the "NASA Public Service Medal."

Dr. Brown will also provide a day-long seminar on March 22

Dr. Brown will present "*LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR PROJECT MANAGERS*" in a 7 hour seminar. Dr. Brown has provided seminars to us before, and each one has been filled with truly informative and essential information.

Annual Leadership Summit - April 1-3:

Charleston is a co-sponsor with SCGMIS of the Annual Leadership Summit which will be held in downtown Charleston at the Francis Marion Hotel. Go to <http://scgmis.org> for more details.

Destination Charleston | PMI Seminar @ Sea

October 23 – 28, 2013 in case you didn't know, Charleston was voted the top tourist city in the world in 2012. In conjunction with local business partners, we are hosting our 3rd Learning Cruise. We encourage people to visit Charleston and jump on a 5 day cruise earning 16 PDUs. We are offering the top destination in the world, a cruise, and PDUs – who could ask for more? Please visit our website for more information.

Contributed by Pat O'Hearn, Executive Director, PMI Charleston –
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For additional information please contact Jim Harmon, VP Communications -
Jim.Harmon@emsolve.com

PALMETTO - [HTTP://WWW.PALMETTOCHAPTER.COM/](http://www.palmettochapter.com/)

Time is flying by and here we are, 6 weeks until the 2013 PMI Palmetto Symposium. If you have not done so, please register as soon as possible to take advantage of the early bird discount that expires on March 23. As in the past, we do have a substantial discount (\$200) for large groups of 10 or more attendees. Check out the Chapter Website for details.

Our speakers are booked, final planning is underway and I would like to thank the sponsors CCT, Fluor, MDI, MetLife and Michelin. We only have a few spaces left, so if you are interested in sponsoring the Symposium and all of the benefits that come with it, please contact Symposium@pmipalmetto.com.

MIDLANDS - [HTTP://WWW.PMI-MIDLANDS.ORG/](http://www.pmi-midlands.org/)

. This month, South Carolina PMI Midlands Chapter is privileged to host Sarat Babu Gorrepati, Director of Presentation Application Systems for BlueCross BlueShield of SC. Mr. Gorrepati will speak at this month's luncheon meeting on "Where Do Good Projects Come From? (Project, Program and Portfolio Management)"

Sarat has more than 20 years of experience in Information Technology which spans across Defense, Banking and Healthcare industries. Currently, Sarat is a Director for Presentation Application Systems supporting Commercial, TRICARE and Corporate applications for BCBSSC. He successfully delivered the new application systems (25 projects with a total of 220 Man years) and conversions over a span of 5 years impacting all lines of businesses. Sarat has a B.S. in Science from Nagarjuna University, MS in Computer Applications from Andhra University and MBA from Webster University.

Leadership Philosophy:

Lead by example and empower the followers. Leadership is a collaboration and teamwork within which members of a team can utilize one another's strengths to counter individual weaknesses.

On February 16, at our strategic planning meeting we were able to approve our strategic plan. Three major objectives were approved with many tasks hanging under those objectives. We are ramping up our volunteer program to support the success of the strategic plan.

CHATTANOOGA - [HTTP://WWW.CHATTANOOGAPMI.ORG/](http://www.chattanoogaapmi.org/)

EAST TENNESSEE - [HTTP://WWW.ETPMI.ORG/](http://www.etpmi.org/)

MEMPHIS - [HTTP://WWW.PMIMEMPHIS.ORG/](http://www.pmimephhis.org/)

NASHVILLE - [HTTP://WWW.PMINASHVILLE.COM/](http://www.pminashville.com/)

With February being the month of love, we received plenty of it from Ampersand Media Group, a Southern California-based firm who led our 2013 strategy session. Ampersand came ready with insight that they had collected during interviews with other chapter leaders, and – to our delight – they also came armed with cupcakes, wine, spa and restaurant certificates and other prizes donated by local businesses. Who knew giving up our Saturday morning could be so rewarding?! With over 17 years of experience in building brands that resonate, launching impactful marketing campaigns, and activating audiences, Ampersand is an ace at turning ideas into reality. By the end of the session, we had defined our key initiatives in branding, acquisition/ retention, member engagement and overall value creation.

We have two upcoming events from our partners:

- Hippo Solutions and Braintrust. Hippo Solutions is presenting a workshop day on “people skills” called “The Deadliners.” These unique workshops use live actors with professional trainers to teach conflict resolution skills and persuasion techniques in a fun, interactive, and realistic setting.
 - Thursday, March 21st, Spark: Lipscomb’s Idea Center
- Braintrust is presenting CSM: Learn Scrum Basics from the Experts. This course will teach you what you need to know to fill the role of ScrumMaster (or Scrum team member) focusing on the basics of the Scrum framework, including team roles, activities, and artifacts, so that you can be an effective member of a Scrum team.
 - Tuesday, March 19th, Homewood Suites, Downtown

*Hold the date...*For those of you that want to visit/ revisit Nashville; the chapter is hosting our 2013 Symposium on April 29th & 30th, at the Embassy Suites in Franklin, TN. Keynote speakers include:

- Chip Eichelberger, Anthony Reed, Mike Weber and Neal Whitten

In addition to our outstanding lineup of nationally acclaimed keynote speakers, our conference staff is hard at work planning an additional 16 breakout sessions ranging

from:

- Integrating Information Security into the Project Management Process
- Global Project Portfolio Management - Borderless Delivery
- Iterative and Agile Management, and more

Our goal is to continually surpass the quality and educational value of the previous year's event. So if you haven't attended one of our symposiums, this is the one you don't want to miss!

DOCTOR BIRD -JAMAICA [HTTP://WWW.PMIJDBC.ORG/](http://www.pmijdbc.org/)

Jamaica's February 2013 Chapter Meeting treated members to a presentation from one of the world's foremost experts on time management, author and consultant Francis Wade, who shared the habits we need to become dramatically more efficient and effective in our projects and programs.

The Executive team is now considering creating unique membership value as well as raising the brand of PMI and our overall social media and publications strategies for lead generation.

For additional information and subscription to our Newsletter, please contact:
support@pmijdbc.org

Contributor: Jana Bent, Director of Publications, PMIJDBC

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN CHAPTER (TRINIDAD/TOBAGO) - [HTTP://WWW.PMISCC.ORG/](http://www.pmiscc.org/)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information on the requested guidelines or past newsletters are on the Region 14 Leadership site and Please remember to also send your monthly information to r14newsletter@gmail.com

If you would like to unsubscribe please send your request to r14newsletter@gmail.com