Schools Named NEBB President

Back in October 2019, the NEBB Board of Directors named Jeffrey Schools, NEBB CP, as the 2019-2020 NEBB President during the Board of Directors meeting held in October.

Schools has been working with a NEBB Certified firm since 1990 and has been a NEBB CP since 2007. He has served as President-Elect of NEBB as well as on the Executive Finance Committee, Board of Directors, Chapter Affairs Committee and as President and Technical Committee Chairman of the MAEBA Chapter. He currently serves on the MAEBA Board of Directors and the Technical Committee in addition to his national duties.

For many years, he has served as an asset to NEBB, helping to promote the value of the organization and its high, trusted standards throughout the industry. NEBB is looking forward to the coming year as he continues his duties.

Office 2019 vs Office 365: What’s the difference?

By: Tom Caddoo, Ameritech Data Solutions

If you are running Microsoft Office 2010, you may be considering upgrading to the latest version of Microsoft Office. One reason to start considering an upgrade is that Microsoft will no longer support Office 2010 as of October 2020. This means no phone support and more importantly no patches and other security support, which in this day and age can present several security risks to your business.

Much has changed with Microsoft Office licensing since you first purchased Office 2010 all those years ago. Microsoft still offers the stand-alone version of Office, but they now offer Office 365 plans with a whole host of features and add-on depending on your needs. You may be asking yourself, what’s the difference? Well, hopefully this article will address that question.

Stand Alone Office 2019—The stand-alone versions are where you buy one license to install one copy of Office on your computer. You pay a one-time license cost at the time of purchase and then nothing else for the software. Per Microsoft’s normal policy, you will receive updates and security patches for 5 years, and then just critical security patches for the last five years of their typical 10-year support window for a version of their software.

This is not a bad deal if you have the cash to pay up front. The list price of Microsoft Office 2019 Professional is $439.00. This will get your MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, OneNote, Outlook, Publisher and Access. You will pay that fee for every user who needs a copy of Office on their computer. For larger organizations, Microsoft does offer volume purchasing agreements and potential discounts.
“We have to get a handle on our climate control expenses!”, exclaimed a CFO of a major hospital.

As the price of water and energy related utility expenses continue to increase, we are getting an ever-increasing number of inquiries from the Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operation Officer, and Comptrollers. Mind you, they haven’t got a clue as to what and how an ultrasonic flow meter even works, but they have been the inspiration for many facilities or maintenance managers jumping to action to acquire portable ultrasonic transit time flow meters.

Such was the case in a large hospital located in the southeast and, yes, the inquiry was generated by the Comptroller. “My energy utility expenses are out of sight! The east wing is too cold and the west wing is too hot! Something needs to be done now!”. 

Apparently, a few years ago the hospital renovated a portion of the building and the climate control system was never the same. Due to the change of seasons and ever-changing demands of occupancy of various rooms, the Facilities Manager has had the maintenance department making adjustments to the chilled water system from time-to-time.

The hospital administrators had heard just about enough with the complaints and out of control utility expenses. The Facilities Manager was pressured to solve the problem immediately. The suggested solution was to create a flow survey of the hydronic systems in key locations.

Since they wanted to get started on this project the next day, equipment had to be delivered immediately. Because of the budget and the large number of metering points, the hospital elected to rent a number of portable ultrasonic transit time flow meters for a week and, through the discovery process, determine the chilled water flow situation. The rental equipment selected was the clamp-on portable Fuji Portaflow Ultrasonic Transit Time Flow Meter. Because of its ease of use and quick on-and-off pipe installations, it utilizes adjustable transducers.

The first pipe selected was a 6” carbon steel water and glycol application. The pipe was insulated and had to be prepped. Keeping in mind the recommended 10 pipe diameters of straight run of pipe, a section of insulation was removed, and the moist pipe was wiped down with a rag. The setup was actually very simple. The pipe’s outside diameter, wall thickness, materials of construction, and then the type of liquid were keypunched into the flow meter and, in return, it advised the transducers’ spacing between one another.

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NEBB entered a Memorandum of Understanding with ASHRAE

Through the MoU and the joint MoU committee selected to uphold the agreement, NEBB and ASHRAE will continue to enhance their working relationship and individual efforts toward achieving mutual objectives. By committing to the ongoing advancement of collaborative projects, keeping one another informed of major initiatives, and discussing new opportunities for collaboration, both organizations will be better suited to promote adoption and widespread use of codes and standards in order to serve engineers and facilities professionals. In addition, this MoU formalizes the commitment of ASHRAE and NEBB to work together to advance research into the sustainable design, construction, and operation of healthcare facilities.

NEBB has a longstanding history of working with ASHRAE to better the building industry through the promotion of procedural standards, educational programs, and similar agreements designed around cooperative efforts. "The MoU between NEBB and ASHRAE reinforces the power of collaboration and provides both organizations a greater opportunity to leverage our resources as we offer innovation and emerging technologies to the building services industry," said 2019-20 ASHRAE President Darryl K. Boyce, P.E. "I look forward to continuing our partnership as we bring our unique strengths together to advance the built environment through sustainable practices."

MAEBA Technical Committee Update

The MAEBA Technical Committee would like to remind our member firms that new and/or updated NEBB Procedural Standards were issued earlier in 2019 for the TAB and BSC disciplines. Every firm certified in these disciplines must own a copy of the new, applicable standard and upload proof of ownership when applying for recertification on the Certelligence portal. All certified professionals should familiarize themselves with the changes contained in the new documents and educate their technicians accordingly. Please remember, according to the TAB Procedural Standard, every NEBB certified project must be continually staffed by a Certified Professional or Technician while work is being performed.

Also, the technical committee is always in need of topics and speakers for our annual and semi-annual recertification seminars, so please forward any ideas or leads to Trish Casey at tcasey@maebanet.org.

Find us on Facebook and Twitter.
Inspecting Ariel Platform Lifts

Contractors who operate lifts can be faced with unsafe conditions if a thorough inspection of the lift is not completed before operating. The inspection process for lifts should be detailed in the company’s safety manual. The two inspection areas of most importance for balancers should be testing of ground controls and fall protection.

Before operating the lift, balancers should first check the ground control system. This is probably the most important step for a balancer because in the event the lift is extended and the employee goes into cardiac arrest, the ground control system must work in order for the employee to be rescued. This isn’t a scenario that balancers think of when they are working on a lift, but all balancers should think of “what if scenarios” when operating a lift alone. Once the balancing employee has checked the ground controls, they must now check the anchor point on the machine. Although it is not in the OSHA standards – attaching your self-retractable lanyard to the designated anchor point on the lift is mandatory by most General Contractors in Philadelphia. This mandatory ruling will help with preventing possible falls from operators leaning over the top rail and not being safely anchored.

Operating lifts on jobsites safely is as important as balancing firms educating their employees. Balancing firms must continue to train their employees on lifts as their certifications expire.

For more information, contact Greg Wharton at (610)828-4055 or gwharton@smca.org.

Join MAEBA at the 2020 NEBB Annual Conference

MAEBA hopes you will join us at the 2020 NEBB Annual Meeting being held at The Greenbrier in West Virginia on April 2-4, 2020. The Greenbrier is a historic resort opened in 1778. This conference will be led by Jeffrey Schools, the NEBB National President at this meeting.

The Greenbrier has more than 55 indoor and outdoor activities available, The Greenbrier offers something for guests of all ages and interests.
Office 2019 vs Office 365

Office 365—If you would rather not pay a large up-front cost, then Office 365 may be what you should consider. With an Office 365 license the user also gets the ability to install Office on up to 5 of their own devices such as laptops, desktops etcetera. In addition to the software, Microsoft also bundles other services into their plans that make them a compelling option.

This is Microsoft’s Software-as-a-service option (SaaS), where you have access to their Office suite online as well as the ability to download the desktop versions of your licensed software on your computer.

In addition, all Office 365 plans include:
• 1 terabyte per user of file storage and sharing (Microsoft OneDrive)
• 99% Uptime guarantee
• World-class data security for any data you store in your Office 365 plan
• For corporate users, active directory integration for user permissions (this makes the IT department happy)

As you move up in Office 365 plans, the features you get also grow:
• Office on tablet or mobile devices – regardless of OS
• Microsoft Exchange (Email Server) with 50GB of inbox space per user
• Microsoft SharePoint, which is like a customizable internal website for your business
• Microsoft Teams, which offers instant messaging with employees and customers on desktops and mobile devices (can also be used as a phone system)
• Yammer (corporate social network)
• Compliance and Data protection (encrypted email, data loss prevention, etc.)

Factors to consider

When deciding which way to go for your business, here are some items to consider.
Take a good look at what programs and features are important to you. If you just need basic Office programs, then the stand-alone version may be the way to go or a lower level Office 365 plan. If you are looking for more robust set of features, including email, then an Office 365 plan is most likely the better option.

• Office 2019: Stand-alone Office 2019 won’t get you access to new features and capabilities until you install a new version of Office and pay the licensing fee.
• Office 365: Since Office 365 is a subscription service, you get access to new features as they come out and have limited control as to when those features get introduced in your software. You also have access to a lot more features (think OneDrive, and for most plans, the ability to install on up to 5 of your personal computers and devices)

Multi-device support
If you need access to your information from multiple devices, an Office 365 plan is the way to go. With a OneDrive plan you can store your files on Microsoft OneDrive and access them on your Office computer, your office laptop, your mobile device and tablet. If you make a change, the change is replicated to all those devices when using One-Drive.

Move Between Plans
If you need access to the enhanced set of features on an Office 365 plan for only a couple of users, then just those users can upgrade plans. This is a good approach if you have a couple of power users
MAEBA’s Jeff Schools named NEBB President

uses that journey and continues to help emphasize the importance of NEBB Certified Firms in the mission to optimize building performance.

Schools currently serves as the Vice President of Fisher Balancing Company, based in Williamstown, New Jersey. He attended Temple University and completed a four-year Apprenticeship Program with the Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 in Philadelphia. Jeff currently provides testing, adjusting, and balancing (TAB) services for major construction projects and the majority of hospitals located in the Tri-State Area.

MAEBA wishes Jeff good luck in his presidency!

Ultrasonic Flow Meters

After hooking up the quick disconnect signal cables to the transducers, the spacing was adjusted, acoustic couplant was applied to the transducer, and then clamped to the pipe. The monitor now displayed the flow rate in question. This process was repeated numerous times and all the data was logged, downloaded and digested.

They had mapped out the trouble spots. With this emergency over for the moment, they still had access to the rental flowmeters and decided to also monitor the various water usages to different departments, kitchens, and waste disposal areas.

All flow data was reviewed with the customer and concluded that the short-term problem may be pacified and they need to focus on the long term situation: Bring in a NEBB certified Test and Balance expert to correctly balance their system.

After the system was balanced correctly dedicated clamp-on ultrasonic flow meters were installed with continuous communications to the BAS which optimized the facilities utility expenses.

Office 2019 vs Office 365

who need additional capabilities. With the stand-alone versions of Office, you are not able to do this.

Cost—What can you afford to pay per user? You need to consider whether you want to pay a significant cost upfront or pay a small monthly fee.

• Standalone office: Onetime fee up front and no monthly fees and no upgrades in functionality unless you buy a new license.

• Office 365: Office 365 is a subscription plan which means you won’t pay a large up-front fee, but you will pay a set monthly fee per user per month. In most cases you pay a smaller monthly fee with a yearly commitment. You also get access to other services (think OneDrive, SharePoint, and Email Server) as part of many of these plans and you have greater flexibility in terms of how you deploy your licenses.
MAEBA would like to thank the vendors that have joined!

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Calendar of Events

Feb 15-18, 2020
NEBB TAB Seminar & Optional CP Exam

Mar 9-11, 2020
NEBB Cleanroom Testing Seminar & Optional CP Exam

Mar 30-31, 2020
NEBB BET Seminar & Optional CP Exam

April 2-4, 2020
NEBB Annual Conference
The Greenbrier, West Virginia

April 24, 2020
MAEBA Semi-Annual Meeting
Radisson Hotel, Trevose, PA

September 20-21, 2020
MAEBA Recertification Seminar
Eden Resorts, Lancaster, PA

For more information on NEBB Seminars go to www.NEBB.org

MID-ATLANTIC ENVIRONMENTAL BALANCING ASSOCIATION

A Chapter of the
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