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Subject: Long time, no me!

Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Mon, 10 Sep 2007 07:47:45 GMT

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Hey everyone!

I haven't been to the group in a while and was just checking back in to make sure everything was still cool. It's good to see the familiar names are still hanging around.

I changed day jobs last March and between that, the family, and the band gigging all the time, I just haven't had a lot of time to keep up with things here. My new day gig is building and helping to design Atomic Force Microscopes. The head guy is an old music buddy of mine and he knew I was good with gadgets and had a background in tinkering, and decided to make me an offer I couldn't refuse. Here's a link to the company if anyone is interested in just what the hell an Atomic Force Microscope is:

[www.novascan.com](http://www.novascan.com)

In other news, my band, Standing Hampton, just finished our first CD. Several of the songs started out in PARIS, but were then re-recorded and mixed in DP when I switched over. I miss the sound of PARIS, but the need for "modern" plug-in handling, virtual instruments, etc. was just too great for me. The bulk of the tracks were recorded in DP 5 on my dual 2Ghz G5. Our keyboard player recorded his tracks on his Nuendo rig and they were then flown into DP for mixing. The mastering was done by Discmakers where we had the CD manufactured. Our band plays high energy classic rock covers and we were always being asked if we had a CD, so we decided to put something out to sell at gigs, etc. It's definitely "old school" rock. The description we use is "Power pop rock at it's seveties-eightiesest". ;>) Anyway, if anyone wants to check it out, you can listen to snippets at iTunes, CD Baby and Digstation.com. Just do a search for "Standing Hampton" / "Brace Yourself" or you can get there from our web site at [www.standinghampton.com](http://www.standinghampton.com).

I'll try to check in more often now that my life's slowed down a little again. I always enjoy the company here and I'm glad the place is still going strong!

Later,

Tony

---

---

Subject: Re: Long time, no me!

Posted by [steve the artguy](#) on Mon, 10 Sep 2007 08:04:16 GMT

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Tony Benson <tony@standinghampton.com> wrote:  
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Tony, that's one of the coolest thing I can imagine. Congratulations.

-steve

---

Subject: Re: Long time, no me!  
Posted by [rick](#) on Mon, 10 Sep 2007 08:55:24 GMT  
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---

hey tony,

welcome back though i was hoping the AFM was a new retro all metal squirt gun...

rick

On Mon, 10 Sep 2007 02:47:45 -0500, Tony Benson <tony@standinghampton.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Long time, no me!  
Posted by [excelav](#) on Mon, 10 Sep 2007 15:50:50 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hey Tony, glad to see you back! I was wondering what happened to you. It looks like your doing some interesting work, it's funny where life will take you.

What are your thoughts on DP now that you have been using it for a while?  
What version are you using?

Tony Benson <tony@standinghampton.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Long time, no me!

Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Mon, 10 Sep 2007 17:08:07 GMT

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On 9/10/07 3:04 AM, in article 46e4fa80\$1@linux, "steve the artguy"  
<[artguy@somethingorother.net](mailto:artguy@somethingorother.net)> wrote:

>

> Tony Benson <[tony@standinghampton.com](mailto:tony@standinghampton.com)> wrote:

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> Tony, that's one of the coolest thing I can imagine. Congratulations.  
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> -steve

It's pretty interesting stuff Steve. My friend is without a doubt the smartest person (in general) I know. Although his Phd is in Molecular Biology, he knows something about everything from advanced chemistry, to digging septic systems. The systems we build are all very "one off" custom jobs. We have great software and electronic engineers who do the real brainy work. I'm in charge of the actual production of the microscopes. In the past few months I've learned how to program the CNC machines we use to make custom parts and do all of our prototyping. It's a long way from being the accounting office manager at a car dealership, that's for sure!

It's good to hear from you Steve and I hope all is well in CO.

Tony

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Subject: Re: Long time, no me!  
Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Mon, 10 Sep 2007 17:09:56 GMT  
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On 9/10/07 3:55 AM, in article qh1ae3l7sgb6nu54qfkm4fsq4plth3v28v@4ax.com, "rick" <parnell68@hotmail.com> wrote:

> hey tony,  
>  
> welcome back though i was hoping the AFM was a new retro all metal  
> squirt gun...  
>  
> rick

LOL! Hey, I now have the technology to make you one if you want! ;>)

Tony

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> <tony@standinghampton.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Long time, no me!

Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Mon, 10 Sep 2007 17:43:31 GMT

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On 9/10/07 10:50 AM, in article 46e567da\$1@linux, "James McCloskey" <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote:

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> Hey Tony, glad to see you back! I was wondering what happened to you. It  
> looks like your doing some interesting work, it's funny where life will take  
> you.  
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> What are your thoughts on DP now that you have been using it for a while?  
> What version are you using?

Hey James!

Yeah, I would never have believed I'd be in the nano-tech industry 6 months ago. It's still kind of surreal to me.

I'm very happy with DP. I am on the latest version (5.whatever) and have only encountered one bug that's crashed me. If I select several soundbites at once and edit the crossfades, I have to wait a few seconds and let DP finish thinking. If I move on too quickly, it can freeze the program. Other than that, I have few complaints. It's quick, I can run as many tracks as I need at 128ms buffer setting (pretty low latency) and haven't had many instances where I run out of processing for plug-ins. Guitar Rig 2 is the only "problem" plug-in. If I open more than one instance at a time, Things get pretty slow. This is all on an older dual 2 Ghz G5 also. I think when I get the funds together for a new Intel based quad or quad dual core, I'll be in Nirvana! I'll have to upgrade my UAD-1 also though as I've really gotten used to several of those plug-ins. The LA2A, 1176, and Fairchild get a lot of use on my projects. As far as mixing in DP, I took Neil's advice and start all my mixes with the faders at at least -6, and make up the gain with the UAD Fairchild or Motu Masterworks limiter on the output bus. I'm still learning, but that alone opens up my mixes greatly. I definitely miss the PARIS bus in that respect, but I think with some more experimenting, I can get DP a lot closer as far the "open" quality PARIS has. Getting the PARIS "sweet saturation" or "glue", as many call it, may take more work. I'm also pretty smitten with TriTone Digital's Colortone Pro across the 2 bus. The "15 ips Hot" impulse response, to my ears, really adds something special, and many of the other responses are nice for certain songs also. I like that I can download, or even make my own impulse response samples too. Very cool plug-in IMHO.

Good to hear from you James! Thanks for keeping things "level" here for us Mac guys. ;>)

Tony

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>

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Subject: Re: Long time, no me!  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Mon, 10 Sep 2007 19:46:09 GMT  
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Hey Tony, that's very cool!

Cheers,  
-Jamie  
[www.JamieKrutz.com](http://www.JamieKrutz.com)

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Subject: Re: Long time, no me!  
Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Mon, 10 Sep 2007 20:22:29 GMT  
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Sorry Steve! I had just read a post by Jamie K and got my people/locales mixed up there for a second. You're in CA, right? I'm flying out to LAX tomorrow to install a microscope at UCLA. You're a ways North of LA though, in Napa is it? Anyway, sorry for the mix up.

Tony

On 9/10/07 12:08 PM, in article C30AE427.255E8%tony@standinghampton.com, "Tony Benson" <tony@standinghampton.com> wrote:

> On 9/10/07 3:04 AM, in article 46e4fa80\$1@linux, "steve the artguy"  
> <artguy@somethingorother.net> wrote:  
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> work. I'm in charge of the actual production of the microscopes. In the past  
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Subject: Re: Long time, no me!  
Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Mon, 10 Sep 2007 20:24:54 GMT  
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Thanks Jamie! I think so too.

Tony

On 9/10/07 2:46 PM, in article 46e5a0d7@linux, "Jamie K"  
<Meta@Dimensional.com> wrote:

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> Hey Tony, that's very cool!  
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>tomorrow to install a microscope at UCLA. You're a ways North of LA though,  
>in Napa is it? Anyway, sorry for the mix up.  
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>Tony  
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No problem, Tony.

Yeah, I'm about 6 to 8 hours north of LA, depending on how maniacally one drives. If you ever get an order to install one of those machines in the SF bay area (in a place that doesn't require a top secret security clearance) I'd love to be a fly on the wall.

My fascination with science has always been immense. Had a wonderful tour of Ames Research Center in the South Bay in the 80s, back when I was in the Planetary Society. I follow the nanotech stuff very closely, albeit as an ignorant layman.

All that I know I read on Physorg.com...

-steve

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Subject: Re: Long time, no me!  
Posted by [rick](#) on Tue, 11 Sep 2007 08:50:27 GMT  
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i'm ambidextrous if that helps...;o)

On Mon, 10 Sep 2007 12:09:56 -0500, Tony Benson  
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>>> Tony

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>>

>

---

Subject: Re: Long time, no me!

Posted by [Sarah](#) on Tue, 11 Sep 2007 14:19:49 GMT

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---

Hi Tony. Nice to see you again. Love your band if for no other reason than  
you do "Straight On" by Heart. :) And being a major science nerd, I will  
have to read up on those microscopes. Can you see viruses with 'em?

(Hey, what's DP?)

Welcome back,

Sarah

"Tony Benson" <tony@standinghampton.com> wrote in message  
news:C30A60D1.41651%tony@standinghampton.com...

> Hey everyone!

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Subject: Re: Long time, no me!  
Posted by [Neil](#) on Wed, 12 Sep 2007 02:05:50 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Hey Tony, I just had a chance to check out some of the tunes on your site... nice work! Sounds great!

Oh, and i'll take a medium-bandwidth nanoscope.... something running about 5W in the 2 GHZ range should be sufficient for mapping my own DNA, shouldn't it? I don't have a specific price range in mind, but just try & give me the most PicoWebers I can get for the buck. Get back to me with a quote, ok? lol

:D

Neil

Tony Benson <[tony@standinghampton.com](mailto:tony@standinghampton.com)> wrote:

>Thanks Jamie! I think so too.

>

>Tony

>

>

>On 9/10/07 2:46 PM, in article [46e5a0d7@linux](#), "Jamie K"

><[Meta@Dimensional.com](mailto:Meta@Dimensional.com)> wrote:

>

>>

>> Hey Tony, that's very cool!

>>

>> Cheers,

>> -Jamie

>> [www.JamieKruz.com](http://www.JamieKruz.com)

>>

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>>> Later,  
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>>> Tony

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Subject: Re: Long time, no me!  
Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Thu, 13 Sep 2007 10:35:14 GMT  
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Hey Sarah!

Thanks for the kind words. Yeah, Nancy our vocalist is my wife. We've been playing in bands together for 28 years now, and married for 23! It doesn't seem possible, since I still feel (or act I should say) like I'm 18 years old. ;>) Anyway, we're both big Heart as well as Benatar fans.

I really dig your Sarahtonin stuff. I like the quirky, almost semi-progressive approach. I wish we could branch out on our original stuff like that, but our "demographic" wants the straight ahead pop rock stuff, and the band stays booked a lot, so we're hesitant to risk alienating our little niche. I'll have to do a solo CD with some more "interesting" music.

Yes, our microscopes can see DNA and smaller as a matter of fact. We can image structures as small as a few nanometers in size. The thing that amazes me is that the basic principal of these scopes is very analogous to how a record player works. The main difference being, our "stylus" is only a handful of micrometers long, and the very tip is only a few atoms wide at most. It's mind boggling to me.

DP is the abbreviation for MOTU's Digital Performer software. I forget that not everyone is familiar with that though. It's a pretty cool program, but only available for the Mac. Not any better or worse than most PC software (I know everyone and their brother can, and will, debate that point though), but since I've been a Mac user for so many years, it just seemed very intuitive to me, so that's what I went with when I left PARIS.

Nice to talk Sarah. I can't wait to hear your next CD.

Tony

On 9/11/07 9:19 AM, in article 46e6a5d1@linux, "Sarah" <sarahjane@sarahtonin.com> wrote:

> Hi Tony. Nice to see you again. Love your band if for no other reason than  
> you do "Straight On" by Heart. :) And being a major science nerd, I will  
> have to read up on those microscopes. Can you see viruses with 'em?  
>

> (Hey, what's DP?)  
>  
> Welcome back,  
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> Sarah  
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>  
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Subject: Re: Long time, no me!  
Posted by [Tony Benson](#) on Thu, 13 Sep 2007 10:48:58 GMT  
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Neil!

Thanks for the kind words. I'm still learning (like a lot of us here), and worked to the best of my abilities on our little project. The next one will be better, and so on. That's how it's supposed to work anyway, right?

We can have your AFM ready in about 6 weeks for a killer deal. Only \$400,000.00 or so and this baby can be yours! ;>) Seriously, these systems can run anywhere from 250k to 500k. It's unreal.

Thanks again.

tony

On 9/11/07 9:05 PM, in article 46e7497e\$1 @linux, "Neil" <IOUOI@IU.com> wrote:

>  
> Hey Tony, I just had a chance to check out some of the tunes  
> on your site... nice work! Sounds great!  
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> Oh, and i'll take a medium-bandwidth nanoscope.... something  
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Subject: Re: Long time, no me!  
Posted by [Sarah](#) on Wed, 19 Sep 2007 08:19:58 GMT  
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And thank you for the kind words as well, and especially thank you for finally finding a category for our music -- Almost Semi-Progressive. :)

I read up on those Atomic Force Microscope and I almost semi-understand how they work, but more importantly, I collected a whole bunch of nifty photos from them. I love that surreal real stuff. Thanks for edjumacatin' me.

S

"Tony Benson" <[tony@standinghampton.com](mailto:tony@standinghampton.com)> wrote in message news:C30E7C92.2574E%[tony@standinghampton.com](mailto:tony@standinghampton.com)...

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