



NonStop Impressions from an Under-30 Perspective

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As I sit in my cubicle at Gravic headquarters (in Malvern, Pennsylvania), the leaves turn and the wind blows, bringing with them the cooler weather and the change of seasons. I reminisce on my past two years after college in the “real world” at various regional and international HPE NonStop user group events, along with the diverse cultures I have been lucky enough to experience.



Alfredo, Paul, Orlando, and Paden at LATUG 2018

Heading into my first show last year last year, I thought, “This is a technology show, and everyone in technology is young, right?” I attended my first show at eBITUG (Conference for the European NonStop Community) in London. After a sleepless flight and an enjoyable day touring, I was in for a rude awakening. My first impressions: Is everyone in NonStop over 50?, the dinner at the Aqua Shard was one of the nicest events I have attended, Dave McLeod is a funny man, these people know their technology, and they have a ton of questions about everything.



Registering Attendees
at MATUG 2017

I then attended the smaller (Mid-Atlantic) MATUG Meeting held in the Baltimore area. While still impressed by the significant age gap between the other attendees and me, I also gleaned further insight into some of the nostalgia.

During Mike Toth's talk, he highlighted some of NonStop's glory days, when it powered

about two dozen of the world's twenty-nine stock exchanges. This memory resonated with every single person in the room, and showed me that everyone found immense meaning beyond the tangible projects in his/her involvement with these computers.

This year, I attended the regional (greater New York City area) NYTUG Meeting and delivered the HPE Shadowbase presentation for the first time. Even after giving many presentations in college to varying audience sizes, it was nerve-wracking to stand in front of even fifteen people to talk about our solutions. Afterwards, I spoke with a customer, who commended me for my efforts, gave me some pointers, and mentioned how he speaks in front of a thousand plus people during his free time. It was evident to me how kind and accepting these folks could be.

Fast forward to the recent local (Atlanta) ATUG Meeting, where I recall asking an IT manager, "Which platform do you prefer to work on? Linux or NonStop." To which he replied, "I wish I had more time with NonStop. They really only have me [work] on it when there's a problem." His answer gave me insight into the passion these folks have for their technology, and the challenges they face: innovation in a world with ever-shortening deadlines, budget, and time constraints.



Breathtaking view of the Andes from the HPE office in Santiago

I experienced some funny times, too. Once, we arrived in another country, drove to a hotel, approached the receptionist at the counter, and asked, "We're here for the NonStop show. Where would that be?" He replied, "There is no show here by that name," which caused all sorts of panic. (For the record, we were at the right hotel. Luckily, the receptionist was wrong.)



Paden, Paul, Fabian, Mariano, Gabe, Lars, Alfredo, and Ken at
Restaurant Domenica in Santiago

Later this year, I also presented at the international events of LATUG, CTUG, and MexTUG (respectively, Santiago, Toronto, and Mexico City). Overall, it was very interesting to meet so many new people and try to digest the various cultures.

Entering my first event, I had a fear that people were going to aggressively ask me questions and expect answers that I did not have. However, no one did that. The people are kind and approachable, and have vast amounts of knowledge and wisdom based on experience. There is much I can learn from everyone, especially that over-50 group! Let's keep NonStop going "nonstop!"

Mr. Holenstein works on the website, marketing communications, and branding for HPE Shadowbase. He is a "NonStop Under 40" member, who presents at regional TUG/RUG meetings and partner technical conferences. He is a recent West Chester University graduate with a BSCE in Marketing and has worked at Gravic for two years.

