
From: info@podi.com
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Subject: PODI News: The Road to ASAE in Columbus and New Views on 'Remember Me'



The Road to ASAE!

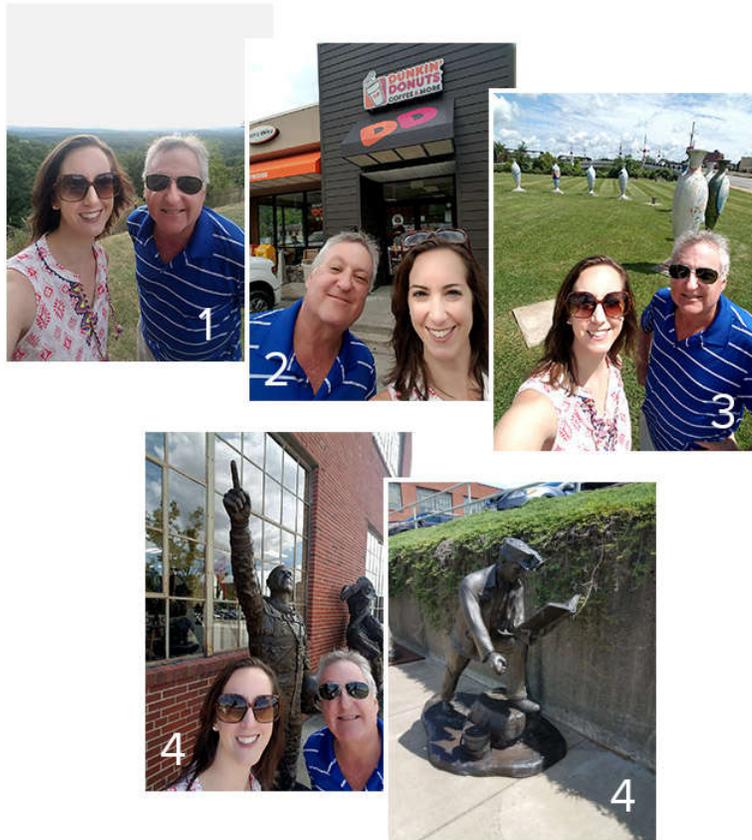
After 21 years of exhibiting at the [ASAE Annual Meeting & Exposition](#), we decided it was time for something new. So, instead of the usual plane ride, we opted for a road trip! Loaded up with our booth set-up and a bag full of travel snacks (nothing healthy, of course) we hit the road to the meeting in Columbus!

With the help of the website [Roadside America](#), Marie and I found some pretty interesting stops between DC and Columbus.

1. [Sideling Hill](#)
2. West Virginia (just a breakfast stop at Dunkin Donuts)
3. [Circle of Vases](#)
4. [Cottrill's Sidewalk of Sculptures](#)



Paul and Marie in the Potomac Digitek booth at the ASAE Expo.



It was a great, old-school road trip. And taking just those few hours to see these parts of the country served as an important reminder that this country is so diverse in experiences and surroundings.

And that diversity is evident in all of our clients, as well. While there may be similarities in industries and basic functions, we know that each of our clients has a unique set of requirements and needs for each project. That's why we really take the time to get to know you, your members/clients, the way you like to do business, and then help figure out what will be the best solution for you.

Stay tuned for our next newsletter: Columbus, here we are!

The Unintended Consequences of 'Remember Me'.

Over the years, we frequently implemented a 'Remember Me' feature on client websites. This feature is invoked by checking a box on a login screen where the user enters their username and password. If the feature is selected and the user's credentials are validated, the user no longer needs to login on future visits to the site.

It was a nice service for users.

But, recently we revisited the use of the 'Remember Me' and uncovered unintended abuse and security issues which have caused us to no longer recommend this feature on client sites.

Here are a few of the issues to consider about the 'Remember Me' feature.

Remember Me Doesn't Reflect Current Member Status

Stored login credentials do not invoke a check for any recent updates to membership status, roles, demographic updates, etc. A user with legitimate credentials can login, select Remember Me, then continue to use/abuse the system long after their membership has expired or has been revoked.

These users can even hide behind an incorrect email address while sending sensitive information or accessing locked-down resources that should no longer be available to them. In one recent example we discovered users accessing member area information even though their memberships expired more than two years prior.

Introduces Security Issues

Sites providing a Remember Me function do so using a persistent cookie (Cookies are messages that web servers pass to your web browser when you visit Internet sites). This persistent cookie can be accessed by hackers via cross-site scripting attacks and session hijacking. Both methods are increasingly prevalent on the web and can be difficult to detect.

Exposure on Public and Shared Devices

The Remember Me function used on a public or shared device opens login-secured content to anyone using the same device. Once selected, the Remember Me feature provides any user of the device direct access to protected content. The persistent cookie on the device which provides access to protected content cannot be removed or disabled remotely. It can only be removed through direct access to the device.

Interferes with User Login Tracking

An increasing number of our clients are tracking user activity which includes the date and time of each login and the frequency of visits. The Remember Me function prevents accurate tracking of the 'last login date'.

Web Browsers Provide a More Secure Implementation

All modern browsers have a remember password feature. It is safer to use the browser's remember password feature than the website's Remember Me feature. Like the 'Print Version' and font-size adjustment buttons, the Remember Me function has been added to browsers to provide a consistent cross-site implementation for a user and to put the control in the user's hands.

Other News and Notes

The [American Specialty Toy Retailing Association \(ASTRA\)](#) uses a creative approach to bring even more benefits to members. ASTRA's manufacturer members are encouraged to offer discounts to retailers for ASTRA's special events (like Neighborhood Toy Store Day and Toy Fair). But now, they've expanded these offerings and are giving members the ability to submit Year-Round Offerings via a new submission form and searchable/sortable listing of offers.

For more than a decade, the [Eastern North American Region of the International Biometric Society \(ENAR\)](#) has offered its members the ability to quickly and easily cast their votes for new leadership in online elections. While the platform has evolved over the years (adding photos and responsive design), Potomac Digitek has been proud to be there every step of the way.

[Kids After Hours](#) is an organization that handles before- and after-school care in 26 Maryland schools. Over the summer, PODI implemented a major project for the upcoming school year. Rather than force parents to fill out an independent health form for their child, parents can now upload the same forms that they give the school nurse. And to make sure that every student has a health form in the KAH system, program directors have the capability to upload multiple health forms directly from the school itself. An added bonus is that parents can also use the same system to upload other medical or legal documents about their children that KAH staff needs to be aware of. This improvement will save hours of staff time tracking down parents whose children do not have the proper medical forms on file.

[Property Management Association](#) Member organizations can now purchase event sponsorships for two of PMA's major annual events – the Fall Fest and the Holiday Ball – via the online event registration forms developed by PODI. These forms display sponsorship availability in real time based on Filemaker data and calculate free event admissions associated with the sponsorships.

Thanks for reading.

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