

Abstract: A Brief History of the Second

Captain Kirk said that “space is the final frontier”. He may be right. However, time is giving space some competition.

This talk is about the second. What is it, who defines it, how is it measured, what is its relationship to the rotation of the earth? Who first defined a day as 24 hours? Why is John Harrison a hero to timekeepers? Why is the world’s most accurate clock made of paper? What does Einstein say about time? How is time used in media systems? These topics and more, such as the *Roswell* clock, will be considered during this interactive talk with demos.



The Roswell by Romain Jerome

Presenter: Al Kovalick

Al is the Founder *Media Systems Consulting* in Silicon Valley. Previously, he worked for HP as a systems architect and R&D engineer. Following HP he was the CTO of Pinnacle Systems then a Fellow at Avid. He is an active speaker and educator and authored the 2009 book *Video Systems in an IT Environment – The Basics of Networked Media and File-Based Workflows*. Al has a BSEE from SJSU and an MSEE degree from the University of California at Berkeley. He holds 18 US and foreign patents. He is a SMPTE Fellow and member of Tau Beta Pi and the IEEE.

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