ASHI First Thing

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InspectionWorld 2018: Less than 15 Days away!

It's seriously almost here! InspectionWorld 2018 in Orlando, Florida at the Caribe Royale Resort will be here before you know it and you'll be taking part in the largest, most awesome home inspection event of the year! Where else will you find 45 courses, over 100 vendors, fundraising, a gala and all the peers you can handle all under one roof (or on one property)? Nowhere except at InspectionWorld!

We'll be live streaming a home inspection! We'll have programs geared especially towards the southeastern United States! We'll have CEs galore! We have an awesome conference app that is live long after the event! There are prizes! There
is fun! There is more to see and do than hang out at some house inside a warehouse! Come where the action is! InspectionWorld 2018 Orlando at the Caribe Royale!

Not registered yet? Click below to register now!

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**Home Owners Network, Porch and the Inspection Profession**

Let’s jump right into this discussion with what happened to Home Owners Network and what is Porch?

Home Owners Network (HON) was the creation of former owners, Kevin O’Malley (Inspection Training Associates (ITA), The ASHI School and Casey, O’Malley & Associates), Michael Casey (Michael Casey & Associates) and Pat Norton & Scott Forde (Professional Equipment).

HON was started in 2012 with the intent of creating the ultimate home care program. They offered the “Ask the Experts” smartphone app for instant answers to homeowner questions, a 24/7 Property Emergency Hotline, Find a Contractor Service, Home Recall Alert notices and discounts.
on everything a home owner needs for to move and care for their home.

By January of 2017, Home Owners Network had a membership of over 700,000 home owners and thousands of inspectors were gifting the service to their inspection clients as a value-added marketing tool.

HON was originally working with the Red Beacon contractor search system since their early startup but by mid 2016 they switched to the Porch.com contractor service backed by Lowes.

Matt Ehrlichman, CEO of Porch, said he found HON because one of his managers had recently purchased a home in the Seattle area and received a HON membership from her inspector. She brought HON to Matt’s attention and after several discussions, Porch became HON’s contractor service for its members.

Home Owners Network was valuable for inspectors because it gave them a marketing tool to close more inspection inquiries and created consistent marketing to all past customers and agents with branded monthly newsletters, a branded smartphone app and a branded website.

Porch believed that HON fit perfectly into their vision of creating their Home Assistant Gold program to help home owners care for their homes and by March of 2017 acquired HON..."READ MORE"

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**2-DAY RADON MEASUREMENT CLASS**

(16 hours)

Instructor: Terry Howell, President, Radalink, Inc.

Friday through Saturday Jan 19-20, 8am - 6pm
(16 NRSB CEUs)

- Tuition: $400 - click to Register Now
- (Optional) NRSB Certification Exam will be given Sunday 8:00am. Additional $100 fee and registration through Radalink, Inc. (800) 295-4655
- (Optional) Florida Radon Measurement Exam will be given Sunday 8:00 am. Additional fee and registration through the State.
- Course is specifically designed to prepare students for successfully completing national certification and state licensing examinations. Participants will also be equipped to conduct radon measurements in homes with confidence and success.

Top 5 Claims Against Home Inspectors
As an exclusive home inspection insurance provider, the InspectorPro Program faces claims against home inspectors often. After nearly a decade of defending inspectors, we’ve come to find some significant patterns. Namely, we’ve discovered that the same allegations continue to be common. Since we want to help you avoid the industry’s most common claims, we’re sharing those allegations with you. Read the infographic below to learn the top 5 claims home inspectors
face each year and what you can do to mitigate your risk.

**What you need to know**
Print too small? Click [here](#) to download the infographic for a closer look.

**What you can do next**
Protect yourself from the most common claims today by getting a free quote with InspectorPro. And don’t forget to keep educated on insurance and industry tips by reading our blog.

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**TIPS FOR YOUR REALTORS**
from [Applica Solutions](#)

**Finding the Invisible: The Home Inspector's Tools**
Home inspection requires years of experience and hours and hours of specialized training. But as a REALTOR®, did you ever wonder what are the tools a home inspector carries to find problems that would otherwise be invisible? Here some of the sophisticated devices that a trained home inspector routinely uses when they are working for your clients.

**INFRARED THERMOMETER**
An infrared thermometer measures the
temperature of a surface by using an infrared beam. It is used for checking the temperature of heating & cooling equipment, air registers, hot water tanks, and electrical equipment such as circuit breakers.

**GFCI RECEPTACLE TESTER**
An inspector uses a GFCI Receptacle Tester to confirm the proper operation of each electrical outlet of the home that has a ground-fault circuit interrupter.

**MOISTURE METER**
A sophisticated moisture meter can actually detect elevated moisture levels behind tile and vinyl. And a good device can also measure moisture levels in materials directly by touching the surface with two pin sensors.

**AC VOLTAGE DETECTOR**
An AC Voltage Detector measures the voltage found in the home’s electrical wiring, wall receptacles, fuses, junction boxes, and other electrical systems.

**POWERFUL FLASHLIGHT**
A strong flashlight with an adjustable beam allows a trained inspector to make detailed visual observations in a variety of lighting conditions.

5 Report Writing Mistakes Every Inspector Should Avoid [Video]
At some point, every inspector is likely to make a mistake when writing a report – it’s just human nature. Here are a few suggestions on how to avoid common mistakes and create amazing inspection reports.

Tip #53: Stifle that Whistling Shower Head
Singing in the shower takes on a new dimension when you’re accompanied by a whistling shower head. No matter how you vary the pitch and stay in tune, the screech from the shower head just won’t play.

A poor melody is one thing, but water sprays and streaks to one side or the other are a real problem.

This problem is normally caused by a buildup of
hard water deposits inside the small openings of the shower head. Once they become partially plugged, the squealing starts and the uniform spray is blocked.

Solve the problem by soaking the shower head in a plastic storage bag filled with vinegar or a hard water scale removal product. Often you can just fill the bag and tie it around the pipe that feeds the shower head. Follow label directions for any chemical you use.

After soaking the shower head, rub it with a coarse cloth or use a toothpick to clear away residue and hard deposits.

To make the job easier, you can simply remove the shower head by turning the connector counterclockwise. This may require using a small wrench or pliers; protect the chrome plating by placing a rag under the wrench.

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**Bitcoin Explained Like You are Five**

Hearing news about the phenomenal rise of bitcoin and wondering what the fuss is all about? Here is an explanation that even your 5-year-old nephew will understand:

Imagine you give away a piece of candy to
another person. It’s a tangible, physical thing which is visible to the naked eye. Once you’ve given away that candy, it is no longer with you. It is now in possession of the other person.

You don’t need a third party to verify this. The whole process is binary. Either you gave away the candy or you didn’t.

What if the candy is not a physical, sugary treat but a digital entity? Even if you do give away the digital candy, how do we know that it is now in possession of the other person? You’d need some sort of a ledger to maintain that record and a witness to prove the authenticity of the transaction.

Bitcoin is that candy and a blockchain is the ledger. Each time you give away the whole candy or a fraction of it, a record is made on the blockchain and it remains for the entire world to see. There’s no way for you to cheat by saying that you’ve given it away when you haven’t.

There you go. This simplified explanation is the entire gist of what bitcoin and blockchain is all about. The value of a bitcoin is determined by market sentiment and the rarity of available bitcoins.

Use this explanation as a party trick the next time you see someone spewing jargon.

Still skeptical about buying bitcoin? Well, here’s a nice little minimalist wallet to store your usual boring currency in the meanwhile. Visit our store for the coolest products available online.
UNDERSTANDING ERROR SPECIFICATIONS OF CONTINUOUS RADON MONITORING

Not all Specifications are Equal

By Dr. Kai Wundke, Sun Nuclear Corporation

The EPA has designated January as Radon Action Month with the goal of spreading awareness about the harms radon can cause and the importance of testing homes. In this spirit of education, the following article addresses the ways in which Continuous Radon Monitor performance is evaluated – and why it’s good to know the difference.

Continuous Radon Monitor (CRM) performance evaluations by NRPP and NRSB follow stringent guidance for evaluation and test procedures. However, there is no guidance on how manufacturers specify and market CRM performance, which can lead to confusion and misinterpretation.

What are typical performance specifications?

- Typical Error – the “mean error” or “the most likely error” to be observed when performing repeated tests. This error is less meaningful when comparing CRM monitors only among each other, and not against a NIST (National Institute of Standards & Technology) traceable source.
• **Coefficient of Variations or COV** (also referred to as **Uncertainty** or **Precision**) (ANSI MS-PC 2015) – the standard deviation (SD) of a set of measurements from the arithmetic mean of those measurements. An Uncertainty of 1 SD, 2 SDs, and 3 SDs would cover ~68%, ~95%, and ~99.7% of data, respectively.

• **Accuracy** (ISO 5725-1) – the closeness of measurement to the true value. Accuracy includes all errors and is the maximum percent error measured against the true value.

Per a requirement set by the US EPA in the 1990s and later adopted by the NRPP and NRSB, Sun Nuclear has traditionally used Accuracy to specify CRM performance. Most other manufacturers do not specify an error limit, but only provide a sensitivity value, which on its own does not limit the error a measurement may exhibit. When an error specification is provided from other manufacturers, it is typically limited to an Uncertainty specification.

We are often asked why our CRMs specify a 25% error (i.e., Accuracy) while other CRM manufacturers often specify less than a 10% error. Such error comparisons are problematic and are rooted in the ambiguous definition and use of the term “error.”

To illustrate this, the figure below shows a 2007 US EPA evaluation of (5) Sun Nuclear Model 1028 CRMs against a NIST traceable radon concentration. The blue bars represent the quantity of discrete Model 1028 measured data points, organized by the percent difference from
the NIST source. The red line is the statistical best-fit distribution for these measurements.

This figure demonstrates three ways to define error for the same set of data, with drastically different answers. Based on the EPA evaluation shown above, Sun Nuclear’s Model 1028 CRM performance for a typical 48-hour test can be described as follows:

- **Typical Error** – 3%. This means the most common error to be measured is 3% from actual against the NIST source.

- **COV / Uncertainty / Precision** – +/- 8%. This means that at 1 SD, ~68% of the 1028 measurements are within 8% of the mean value.

- **Accuracy** – specified to be +/- 25%. This means Sun Nuclear specifies that the maximum deviation of any one measurement among all measurements collected is 25% or less from actual.

In summary, when comparing CRM performance or “error” among CRM manufacturers, terminology
and definition can vary considerably. Don’t hesitate to ask questions to ensure you understand the percent error published for your device.

Want to learn more or discuss further? Email us, or stop by and say hi to the Sun Nuclear team at INSPECTIONWORLD.