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**CADDO-BOSSIER
 WINDOWS
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City
 Louisiana

Volume 12 No 4

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

April 2010

March Meeting

By Glenda Conradi



March 2010 Meeting

The March program was presented by Bernie Conradi. He talked about the Windows Explorer feature in Windows 7, how much easier it is to use, and what some of the new functions are. Some of these functions are the "New Folder" icon, the

"Libraries" section, the "Favorites" section, the "Preview Pane", and how to make a two pain Windows Explorer to copy and transfer files.

If you have something you would like to be covered in a future program please let us know

April Program

Please join us Thursday, April 8 at 7:00 PM for another interesting program to help you with your computer related

problems and questions, and give you some good information to help you keep things running smoothly.

MEETINGS

Thursday April 8, 2010

Thursday May 13, 2010

Podnuh's Bar-B-Q

1146 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy

Shreveport, Louisiana

Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month

7 p.m.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Bernie Conradi

Thanks to Bernie Conradi for presenting the March program.

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THE WINDOW

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Membership Dues.
 Full: \$12.00 a year
 Spouse: \$6.00 a year
 Student: \$6.00 a year.

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~Thank You~

We want to express our gratitude to:

Podnuh's Bar-B-Q 1146 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy for letting our group hold our monthly meetings in a private dining room in their restaurant.

BancorpSouth on Youree Drive for providing us with a checking account at no charge.

~A QUICK TIP~

Action Center

A new feature in Windows 7 is the Action Center, which helps ensure your computer continues to run smoothly by alerting you to security and maintenance settings that require your attention. Items in the Action Center are color-coded. Red items are important and require your attention; yellow items are recommended tasks that you should consider.

To open the Action Center: Click the Start button and click Control Panel. Under System and Security, click Review your computer's status. In addition, the notification area includes an Action Center icon. You can quickly check the Action Center for new messages by placing your mouse over the Action Center icon.

President's Page



Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group March Meeting

After the initial announcements and Treasurers report, the meeting was started off with a lively discussion on a number of subjects. To me this is how we all learn from each other. Joe Blase told us about a web site called, www.Andymanchesta.com. This is a very good site to get any free antivirus and anti spyware and malware on line scan. If you go to the site you will see there are many on line scans available. Very good recommendation Joe. Darryl Strange asked about the safety of Facebook. He got a lot of advice from many people in the group about what to do and how to sign up for an account. Charles Smith asked about the air card sold by Verizon. It was said that the USB air card can be used on a laptop or a desktop. Carole White told us about the site www.graboid.com, which is a site that you can download and watch movies on. Bob Salts asked about the web site Flickr. It was said it is a good place to share photos on, but was reminded to be sure and have a backup copy of each photo on your computer. Carol Franklin asked about putting photos in Power Point presentations and was concerned about the final size of the photos one they are in the presentation. For the program this evening we covered Windows Explorer feature in Windows 7 and what some of the new functions were and how much easier it is to use. Some of the functions we covered were the "New Folder" icon, the "Libraries" section, the "Favorites" section, the "Preview Pane", and how to make a two pain Windows Explorer to copy and transfer files. We had an extra special door prize this evening. It was a Kodak Digital Camera won by Carole White. The other door prize was won by Joe Blase and he chose a canned air which is used to keep your computer clean. Congratulations to our winners. And a reminder that the door prizes are a result of the ink cartridges that people donate to the club, which is what we use to purchase the prizes. Because of the increase in donations we are able to get better door prizes.

Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group.

3rd Strike In

by Jay Graff

If you have ever read any of my recent articles, one of the things most discussed was my well published battles I fought to get all of my computers, specifically the latest two, operational and working as advertised. I hesitate to say this, but, for now at least, everything is working great and I have not had any major problems lately, other than the ones I caused myself. When I started this journey, they both came with Windows Vista Home Premium. I got those just before Windows 7 came out. What follows is a tale of trying to put Windows 7 on both of them. First of all, I guess I did not need Windows 7, but from what I read, saw and heard, I decided to plunge ahead. I do this with every new operating system that comes out. At first I claim I am not going to change and soon I do. Let me start with the HP. Since I fell outside of the purchase date for having to purchase a computer that either had Windows 7 or qualified for an upgrade, I called them and arranged to purchase the upgrade through them. They assured me that this was the way to go since any upgrade purchased through them would be up to date with all of the proper drivers, etc. Problem was that they decided not to offer an upgrade for sale, so I bought two, one for the HP and the other for the Gateway. I was able to install Windows 7 fairly easily on the HP, but it soon crashed and I had to send it back. They decided to give me a new computer and additionally, the new one I got would qualify for the free upgrade. I got the new one, but did not put any programs on till I got the upgrade. This raised a dilemma since I had one that I had purchased. My intention was to put that one eventually on my laptop. So for a long time, I was sitting here with either one computer or two but only skyping on the other one. The Gateway had its own issues. For some reason they use what is called a RAID configura-

tion on their hard drives, but there were no drivers available that would allow me to install Windows 7. I hate to tell you how many hours I spent with Microsoft trying to figure out what the problem was. So the Gateway, while still working, sat here with Vista on it. Finally after almost 6 months, things started coming together. I finally got the RAID drivers for the Gateway and got Windows 7 on it. I then got my HP back but had to wait around two weeks before the upgrade got here. It went on without any problems. But I had three Windows 7 upgrades. As I mentioned previously, I had decided to try and put it on my laptop. That proved to be the toughest challenge of them all. Since that was one that had previously been registered, I had to spend almost 4 hours going from department to department and sometimes back to ones I had been to previously before someone gave me a number that worked. Now all is good.

GETTING STARTED TIPS

Windows Snipping Tool

The Snipping Tool in Windows 7 makes screen capturing much easier. The tool lets you take screenshots of your desktop and includes a full screen snip, free-form snip, rectangular snip and a window snip. Once you take a screenshot, you can annotate, save or e-mail the image from within the Snipping Tool window.

To open the Snipping Tool: Click Start, point to All Programs, Accessories, and click Snipping Tool. The tool appears as a tiny window at the top of the screen while the rest of your screen turns transparent. The cursor also changes to a "+" and is used to select part of the screen. To select, move the cursor to the corner of the image you want to capture. Click and hold down the mouse button, drag the cursor to the opposite corner to form a box around the image and let go of the mouse. You can then save the image as a JPEG, GIF, PNG or HTML file.

Door Prize Winners for March 2010 Meeting



Joe Blase and Carole White

The March door prizes were won by Carole White, a Kodak Digital Camera and Joe Blase, a Can of 3M Dust Remover. All Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group club current members in attendance are eligible to win door prizes at the monthly meetings.

BeWARES!

By Berry F. Phillips, Member of the
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This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

The wares have often perplexed computer users with numerous decisions regarding software. The multitude of wares have been even more confusing. Comware is commercial software which generally has more "bells and whistles" but requires the highest financial expenditure without the option to try the software in advance. Trialware is usually characterized on the Internet as a free download for a limited time but requires a purchase to continue using the software. Shareware is also free to download but often has features turned off or has an expiration date unless you purchase the software. Trialware and Shareware do offer an opportunity to use the software before making the decision to purchase. Freeware is free for personal use on the Internet but it may contain adware, viruses, or be poor software. Further, the marketing promotion of the wares can be even more misleading, causing you to download and then delete software that you thought was freeware when you discover it is, in fact, pay ware.

The world of wares can be very frustrating a well as expensive to the computer user. One can spend considerable time, frustration, and even expense downloading and deleting various wares on the Internet. Beware, retailers will not accept returned comware after it has been opened for a money back guarantee. Relax, my holiday gift to my readers is a solution to the problem that I have used for several years, saving me considerable time and money! However, I have had to endure personal comments from some of my fellow computer users that I am "cheap!" Since my ancestry is Scottish who are known for being thrifty, I do not consider that comment an insult. However, I do prefer the use of the

word "conservative" to the rather blunt, "cheap."

Excluding my operating system, I have nothing but freeware downloaded from the Internet on my system! Aha, you are thinking, but what about adware, viruses, or poor freeware, and the considerable time in downloading and deleting it takes to find the best freeware on the Internet? There are several sites that contain only freeware. However, I recommend Gizmo's Freeware site because I have used it for several years and found it to be very effective in reviewing freeware and efficient to use in going quickly via links to safe and secure freeware sites for downloading. I am reluctant to recommend other sites that I have not used for purposes of this article.

Gizmo's Freeware is easy to use and makes it very simple to locate the best freeware on the Internet because it is extensively reviewed before it is recommended. Until July 2008 Gizmo was the editor of "Support Alert", a highly recommended technical newsletter that was distributed to over 150,000 subscribers. The site evolved from his highly popular list of the "46 Best-ever Freeware Utilities." The site grew well beyond 46 and reached the point that it could not be maintained by one person. Today, the site has grown into a kind of Wikipedia for Freeware utilizing contributions of dozens of volunteer editors who edit and moderate suggestions from thousands of site visitors. As a result, the range of free software covered by the site is ever increasing and the quality of the reviews are ever improving. Gizmo's Freeware has, in a real sense, become the "Wikipedia for Freeware." I strongly suggest you check your freeware on your system against the recommendations of the best and consider downloading the best.

The primary purpose of Gizmo's Freeware is to make it easy to select the best freeware product for your particular needs. The best freeware programs are as good or better than their commercial counterparts but finding the most appropriate programs can be challenging. There are dozens of freeware download

sites but few of these actually help you select the best program for your needs. The site has no downloads just honest advice and useful guidance. Links are provided where you can safely and securely download the product you want. Furthermore, you will know that what you have selected is the best available. Gizmo's Freeware is easy to use and will save you time, money, and lots of frustration!

BE SURE TO BOOKMARK GIZMO'S FREEWARE BECAUSE YOU WILL USE IT FREQUENTLY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS -- SAVING YOU MONEY, TIME, AND LOTS OF STRESS:

<http://www.techsupportalert.com/>

~Web Sites~

Calibrate Your Monitor

<http://www.neowin.net/news/main/09/01/07/windows-7-calibrate-your-display>

(Windows 7 includes the option to calibrate your display. Calibrating your display ensures that the colors are displayed correctly on your monitor.)

Explanation of Calibrating Monitor

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/Calibrate-your-display> *(What is Display Color Calibration?)*

Mrs FIXIT

<http://mrsfixit.com/>

(Your Easy Home Repair and Household Hint Q & A Resource. Here you'll find answers to the latest FIXIT questions on do-it-yourself home repairs. You'll find easy and practical solutions to your everyday household projects. From cleaning tips to gardening tips to household pests')



DID YOU KNOW?

You can clear the My Recent Documents list by right-clicking the Start button, choosing "Properties", then clicking "Customize". Click the "Advanced" tab and click "Clear List". You can also remove "My Recent Documents" from the Start menu—just clear the checkbox for "List My Most Recently Opened Documents"