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THE WINDOW
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**CADDO-BOSSIER
 WINDOWS
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City
 Louisiana

Volume 12 No 1

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

January 2010

December Meeting

By Glenda Conradi



C-B WUG Group at December 2010 Meeting

The December program was presented by guest speaker, and member, Richard Conradi with After Hours Computer Specialists, LCC.

Richard covered a lot of good information on things that are good to know about the latest operating system, Windows 7.

He shared many tips and ideas to help you prepare for an upgrade to that operating system. He also told us about some new hardware coming out.

Richard answered a lot of questions members had on Windows 7 and other operating systems. It was a very informative program.

January Program

Bernie Conradi has an interesting program planned for January . He will share the usual information on updates to help keep your computer running smoothly, give you the opportunity to get your computer

questions answered, and as part of his program he will have some spring cleaning tips for your computer and he also will share some new technology.

Please join us and bring a friend.

MEETINGS

Thursday Jan. 14, 2009

Thursday Feb. 11, 2010

Podnuh's Bar-B-Q

1146 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy

Shreveport, Louisiana

Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month

7 p.m.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Richard Conradi

We want to thank Richard Conradi for presenting our December 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~

Change To Small Icons In Start Menu

Windows 7 uses large icons by default in the Start Menu. To change to small Icons right-click on the start button, choose Properties, then check the box for Use Small Icons on the Taskbar tab.

President's Page



Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group December Meeting

This is the month that we conduct our annual business for the group. Tonight we had the election of officers. President is Bernie Conradi, Vice President is Wayne Ebert, Treasurer is Charlie Byrd, Secretary is Glenda Conradi, and Advisor to the Board is Henri Corley. These people will serve you for the next year. Also, tonight we approved some minor changes to the By Laws. The changes will be made and posted on our web page. We took a poll of the attendees and a large number of our members have already changed to Windows 7 or are in the process of moving to Windows 7, so we will start including Windows 7 information in our programs. We will not forget those who are still running Windows Vista or Windows XP. We are a Windows Users Group, so we want to include all operating systems in our programs. The program this month was given by Richard Conradi of After Hours Computer Specialists. This program was titled, "Things to Know Before You Go". He showed the different versions of Windows 7 that are available to us and talked about the differences in the various versions. He also explained the Virtual XP Mode of Windows 7 Professional and Ultimate, and how it could be used. He then covered some hardware options available and necessary to upgrade to Windows 7. He stated that if you are presently running Windows Vista, then your computer should run Windows 7 much better and faster. Richard also answered numerous questions during the presentation and after he completed his talk. We thank Richard for his presentation. Since it is the Christmas season we added one special door prize to the usual two that we normally give out each month. As a result of the empty ink cartridges that have been donated we had a special door prize. It was a digital camera, xd card for the camera, and a card reader. This prize was won by Philip Sanders. The other door prizes were a box of electronic cleaning wipes won by Thelma Windham and a 4 gig thumb drive won by Jerry Jones. Congratulations to our winners.

I ask the members to email me if there is any subject, pertaining to our operating systems, that they want to know about or want to be seen at our meetings. We are open to any and all suggestions. We want to present items that are of interest to our group. Also, if you have a question about a particular item or subject, jot it down and bring it to the meeting and I am sure that there will be someone in the group that can help or answer the question. Remember we learn by sharing with each other.

Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group.

Another Oops

by Jay Graff

It's happened to all of us. Let me rephrase that, it's either happened to us, or will at some point. What I am talking about is accidentally deleting some files that you really did not mean to get rid of. Sometimes you have them duplicated in other locations and sometimes they are not that important. The least that happens is that you get mad at yourself and move on. But suppose the files you got rid of took you a long time to download and even if you could remember what they all were, it would be next to impossible to find them again. Then you do more than get mad, you come close to panicking. Something like this happened to me recently. I'm ashamed to admit it, but as I say, if you have never done it, it's just a matter of time till you do. The next thing you have to do (after you cuss and kick yourself) is to figure out if there is a way to somehow get them back. The most obvious route is to try and find some software that will allow you to do this. I did a google search for Recovery software and found there were a few out there. The problem is that you can't rely on what the website tells you. I tried a couple of them and they may have worked if I were willing to spend the hours involved in getting them back. To say that I am impatient is a real understatement. In these cases, I was not willing to stick around long enough to find out. I was about to give up when I scrolled down on the google page and discovered one that looked promising. I figured I would try this last one. The best thing about it was that it is FREE. I probably did not have that much to lose at this point anyway. The name of the program is Re-

cuva. After I installed it, I was very pleasantly surprised. You tell the program where you want it to look and what type of program you want to recover. You are presented with a list of all of those kind of files that were in that particular location. It even gives you a rough estimate on how successful you might be. I guess not everything is recoverable. In my case, I was able to find the vast majority so I plunged ahead. Again, I was pleasantly surprised. Remember those other programs I tried that took forever? This one was really fast. I could not believe the difference. One potential problem, and you can run into this with any program, it lists ALL of the files of that type you deleted, so you better have your ducks in a row and remember where they were when they were deleted. I did a computer search for this type and only deleted the one on an external drive, so it could have been much worse. Anyway, my files are back and I found a new friend. I wouldn't wish this on anyone, but if you ever have ANOTHER OOPS, go to this site and check it out.

GETTING STARTED TIPS

Clear the Clipboard

You can create a shortcut Icon to Clear the Clip board. Right-click on the desktop or elsewhere, and choose New \ Shortcut from the menu. Then in the shortcut location box, enter the following command: `cmd /c "echo off | clip"` At this point you'll have an icon that will immediately clear the clipboard, but it can be tweaked a bit further. Right-click on the icon and choose Properties, and then change the Run drop-down to "Minimized" to make sure you don't see the command prompt. You can also assign a shortcut key here. If you click the Change Icon button and then browse down to this file, you can find a clipboard icon: `%SystemRoot%\system32\shell32.dll`

Door Prize Winners for December 2009 Meeting



Phillip Sanders, Thelma Windham & Jerry Jones

The December door prizes were won by Phillip Sanders, an Olympus Digital Camera & accessories; Thelma Windham Endust Dust Wipes & Jerry Jones, a 4 GB Thumb drive. All Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group club members in attendance are eligible to win door prizes at the monthly meetings.



Iceberg melting and Bamboo growing through the roof....

Bob Franklin

Okay folks, the Holidays are over and it's time to settle down and get some work done. And for those of us that no longer punch a clock, it's time to explore the gadgets Santa left under the tree and in our stockings. Yep, you have probably guessed it.... Santa dropped off an Iceberg and a Bamboo.

The Iceberg is a Swiss Gear notebook cooler from the makers of the genuine Swiss Army Knife. I've been using a notebook as my main PC lately, so this gadget was right on target. The Iceberg comes with slide out extension arms that are adjustable to support different size notebooks, and allow the cooler to rest in your lap comfortably. It also comes with an on/off switch USB cable that draws power from the notebook's USB port to power the two built in fans. The exhaust system is designed to reduce heat to your legs and prevent overheating the CPU. The cooler's fans are very quiet; I can hardly hear them run. I did a simple test (Web browsing with Chrome) to see how well it would cool the CPU and here's the results: CPU Core 0 Temperature 33 °C (91 °F) without the cooler, CPU Core 0 Temperature 25 °C (77 °F) with the cooler and fans running. Guess that about says it all, 14 °F cooler with the Iceberg running. Now if my calculations are correct that's approximately 15% reduction in temperature. This is not an accurate scientific test, but it does show that the Iceberg will reduce CPU heat.

Carolyn's stocking was stuffed with a Wacom Bamboo Pen and Touch Tablet. Needless to say my job was to install it and get it working. The Bamboo is designed to eliminate the need of a mouse. It works with the touch of the fingers and finger gestures, similar to the Macbook Pro touchpad.

Here's the gestures that work with the Bamboo. To navigate the cursor, drag one finger along the tablet's active area. To click or select, move the cursor to the item you want to click or select, then tap the tablet with one

finger. To double click, move the cursor to the item you want to click or select, then tap the tablet twice in quick succession. Right clicking requires touching the tablet with two fingers placed slightly apart. To move forward and back, simply touch two fingers to the tablet and flick left for back, or right for forward. You can scroll by moving two fingers placed slightly apart. Move your two finger up or down to scroll vertically, and left or right to scroll horizontally. To select and drag, move the cursor to the item you want to move, then tap to select it, and quickly touch the tablet again and drag the item to where you want it, then lift your finger to release. Zooming is a neat gesture. A pinch and spread gesture lets you zoom in and out. Touching two fingers to the tablet, spread your fingers apart to zoom in, and pinch them together to zoom out. And finally the rotate gesture. Place two fingers on the tablet and rotate them in the direction you wish to rotate the image.

Pen input on the Bamboo tablet is the same as other Wacom tablets. The pen can be flipped and used as an eraser! There are also two buttons on the pen that can be used like mouse buttons. The Bamboo has four ExpressKey buttons located outside of the input area. These ExpressKeys are configurable for various functions via the Wacom Tablet Properties program.

Installing the drivers and software in Vista was straight forward, insert the CD and follow the prompts. It also comes with Adobe Photoshop Elements 7 and Nik Color Efex Pro software. All things seem to be working except when graphics programs load an error pops up "Tablet version mismatch." Once the error message is closed, the program continues to load and all things work perfect. This is probably due to the fact that a Wacom Graphire was installed earlier on this PC. I really like the way the Bamboo functions, however I'm not sure it will totally replace the mouse.

~Web Sites~

Safe Manuals

<http://safemanuals.com/>

(So much time wasted looking all over the place for the instruction manual & user guides. Enter the brand and/or the product reference and click on the "Search" button")

H&R Block Tax Calculator

http://www.hrblock.com/taxes/tax_tips_calculators/index.html

(Tax time is coming up again and this site has some information you may be able to use. It addresses some facts about your taxes and includes a 2009 Tax Estimator and suggests you use the H&R Block's Tax Estimator to calculate your refund or how much you'll owe. Then, at the end we'll tell you what documentation you need to complete your taxes.)

Faux Fire

<http://fauxfire.com/>

(Turn your computer screen into a fake fireplace with this animated fire crackling in a fireplace. The burning logs and dancing flames give you a warm feeling.)

Calendar To Print

<http://blog.worldlabel.com/2009/free-2010-fillable-calender-pdf-pro-printable-template.html>

(Check out our free, fillable and printable PDF document template 2010 calendar with notepad! It has the features you need to keep your life on track on calendar pages that are a fully printable)

Search For Medical Symptoms

<http://www.medhelp.org/symptomsearch>
(Enter a symptom or build a list of symptoms. Browse articles about different causes of these symptoms. Adjust your symptoms list and view changes.)



DID YOU KNOW?

When you are performing a search, you can click on the Save Search button in Explorer and when you are in Explorer you will see the save searches under Favorites.