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**CADDO-BOSSIER
 WINDOWS
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City
 Louisiana

Volume 12 No 3

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

March 2010

February Meeting

By Glenda Conradi



February 2010 Meeting

In February Bernie Conradi conducted an open meeting and had a lot to share with the members. There were also a lot of questions answered. Some of the items covered were setting up the screen saver and desktop background, a discussion about "GodMode" an add on program

that list of all the personalized settings that you can make in Windows 7, a review of the backup program in Windows 7 that will make an image, answers to questions about the Acronis Backup Program and more.

We hope you will join us for our March 11 program.

March Program

Please join us Thursday March 11 at 7:00 PM for an information packed 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 March 11, 2010

Thursday April 8, 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 February program.

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THE WINDOW

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Editor
 Glenda Conradi (glenda@conradi.com)

Posts Newsletter To Web
 Jay Graff (jay@jayGraff.com)

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

C-B WUG's Web Address
www.cbwug.com

Club Officers

President Bernie Conradi
 (bernie@conradi.com)

Vice-President Wayne Ebert
 (wdebert@suddenlink.net)

Secretary Glenda Conradi
 (glenda@conradi.com)

Treasurer Charlie Byrd
 (cbyrd22@suddenlink.net)

Board Members at Large

Henrietta Corley
 (henricorly@aol.com)

~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~

Select Text In A PDF File

In a PDF file You can change the cursor into a Select Text tool.

Look up in the toolbar next to the hand icon and click the text cursor with the pointer arrow next to it. That's your text-selection tool.

Click it and you are now able to highlight text.

You can also use this tool to copy images by right-clicking on the image you want and selecting "Copy Image" .

President's Page



Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group February Meeting

On a night when the weather was not very good, snowing, we had a very lively meeting. we had an open session. Pat McDowell joined the group this evening. Welcome Pat! Most of the meeting was spent answer questions about the new Window 7. We helped several people solve some issues they were having setting up the new operating system.

We started out by demonstrating how to set the power options to keep the system from shutting down and going dim prematurely. We then showed how to set up the screen saver and desktop background. We then moved on and told about the add on program "GodMode" which is a list of all the personalized settings that you can make in Windows 7. We also talked about the backup program in Windows 7, and how it will make an image. Then we moved on to a question by Julius Windham concerning Acronis Backup Program. We went through a setup to back up your C Drive and what the settings should be when starting the backup. It was also shown how you can set the program to turn off the computer when the backup is completed. This way you can set the backup and go to bed and let the computer shut down when the backup is done. Fred Kocher told us about a new Microsoft Movie Maker for Windows 7, which he says is very good and works just like the one in Windows XP. We then demonstrated how you can type three letters in the Start menu search box and then this will give you the option of clicking on the program to open same. We also demonstrated the Jump Lists in Windows 7 and how these lists can be very convenient and very quick to use.

Our door prize winners this month were: Rick LaCour winning a 4 gig thumb drive and Pat McDowell a multiscard reader. Congratulations to our winners.

Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group.

Backup au Gratis

by Jay Graff

It is just a fact of computer life. If there is a good application you use that you are paying for, eventually someone, somewhere will develop one that does exactly the same thing, many times for free. I have long been an outspoken advocate of frequently backing up your computer and the program I use to do this is arguably the Gold Standard of Backup programs, Acronis True Image. It is fast, efficient and has a dynamite support system. There is that annoying fact that you have to pay for the privilege of using the best. I decided to test the waters and see if someone had not come up with anything that came close. My intention was not to switch, but rather gather some facts and compare anything else there may be. Rather than list all of the programs I found, I included the url that I used for the basis of this article. You can go there and decide for yourself. They listed around 10 or so including Windows own version. I wanted to do a controlled test, so I backed up my Sony Vaio laptop three different times. The results were eye opening. Since it does not have a lot of data on it, I figured it would be ideal to perform this test. The hard drive stated it had around 45G of data on it. Here is what I found. ACRONIS (base) Total backup time, including verification, 20-25 minutes. I thought this was quite fair since that corresponded with the time it takes for my desktops. The file produced was around 20.5G Next was COMODO BACKUP. This was the one the guy recommended most. I was able to complete this one in about an hour, but the file turned out to be larger than the amount of data I had. Turns out I was doing it with no compression, so I estimated I could have added another 30-45 minutes to that hour. I did not try again so I cannot say exactly how big the file would be, but I assume it would have fallen in line with the rest. Next was

FBACKUP. This was average, maybe a bit less. The total time was around two hours and the file size was 16G. Last was GFI BACKUP. This performed like the others. The file size was almost identical to the last one and I suspect the first one would have been very close. It too took around two hours and they all seemed to verify before quitting. I think the time discrepancy is due to the fact that the freebies use Zip compression to shrink their files. Acronis has more bells and whistles too, the best being the ability to make a disk that you can boot from in case of disaster. With the others, you would have to get your windows back, then reload the program before you could restore. My conclusion? Don't worry Acronis, you are in no danger of losing your job. Still, if you have the time and hard drive space, these may be what you are looking for. Go here and see, <http://blog.taragana.com/index.php/archive/16628/>

GETTING STARTED TIPS

Turn Off Search History

In Windows 7 a new search feature uses Group Policy Editor and by default saves recent searches. (Note: this is not available in Home versions of Windows 7.)

When you go to the search box and start entering something, the last three searches you've done appear. To turn that feature off you need to go into Local Group Policy Editor. Type gpedit.msc into the start search box and hit Enter.

Navigate to User Configuration \ Administrative Templates \ Windows Components \ Windows Explorer then double click on "Turn off display of recent search entries in the Windows Explorer search box".

Set it to Enabled then hit Apply, then OK, and close out of Group Policy Editor. Now when you start searching for something you no longer see the search history.

Door Prize Winners for February 2010 Meeting



Pat McDowell and Rick LaCour

The February door prizes were won by Rick LaCour, a 4 GB Thumb drive; and new member Pat McDowell, a "15 in 1" Memory Card Reader. All Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group club members in attendance are eligible to win door prizes at the monthly meetings.

Over The Rainbow...There's A Cloud

By Bob Franklin

It is being hotly debated in some circles as to whether or not cloud computing will succeed. I for one, not only believe the cloud computing concept will succeed, but has already succeeded and is here to stay. The first thing you have to come to grips with; what is cloud computing? Simply stated: cloud computing is computing in the cloud or better know as the Internet. Computer network diagrams use a cloud as a symbol for the Internet, so the term cloud computing was coined for computing via the Internet. Any time you use a Web based application, you are cloud computing. Web based email is probably the most used cloud computing application, followed by Facebook and other social networking applications. Web based backup and file storage have grown increasingly popular and let's not forget photo storage sites such as Picasa and Flickr. Google has just recently purchased Picnik, a Web based photo editing application. Picnik is not going to replace Photoshop, but Picnik will have many more successful and happy users than Photoshop. Office applications such as a

word processor and spreadsheets are an essential part of computing. There are many Web based office application to choose from. My favorite is Google Docs.... Just so happens, that's what I am using to write this article.

Netbooks have become very popular with the on the go mobile crowd and have moved cloud computing to the next level. Google is developing Chrome OS a new Linux based operating system specifically designed for netbooks and cloud computing. It is yet to be seen if this concept will fly or crash, but then and again who would have ever envisioned the popularity of the iPhone. If Chrome OS proves to be successful in netbooks, it may move to larger laptops and desktops, but Google stated that it was not intended as a replacement for the desktop operating systems such as Windows or Mac OS X.

I've been using the cloud computing concept for a couple of years, and really like its portability. Cloud computing is a go anywhere computing system.

~Web Sites~

Seven Essential Pieces of Software

http://cnettv.cnet.com/seven-essential-free-apps-new-pc/9742-1_53-50079170.html?tag=nl.e404

(A video that gives you suggestions for seven essential pieces of software you can get free.)

Show Photos On Your TV

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/explore/send-photos-with-play-to.aspx>
(A new feature in Windows 7 called Play To where you can literally take your media and "play to" another device on your network, such as an Xbox 360 or another PC running Windows 7)

Route4Me

<http://route4me.com/>
(Find the Best Routes—Every Time (For Free! Enter the addresses you want to visit in any order, and Route4Me will instantly give you the most optimal and shortest route driving directions.)

Old Time Radio

<http://www.archive.org/details/oldtimeradio>
(You are invited to listen to and download Old Time Radio shows here. Over 1,700 old radio shows are available to download. You may find a lot of old favorites, or if you did not grow up in the era of listening to programs on the radio, rather than watching programs on TV, you can listen to some to see what you missed.)

Check The Weather

<http://www.wunderground.com/auto/wxmap/>
(You can type in a city and state and see the weather and any warnings for that area. You can also look at a U. S. Severe Weather Map for warnings everywhere.)



DID YOU KNOW?

You can quickly go to the location where you'd like to create a new folder and press Ctrl+Shift+N. A new folder will appear and you just type a name for it!

This shortcut also works to create a new folder on your desktop.

