



WE DO WINDOWS
THE WINDOW
 COME DO WINDOWS WITH US



**CADDO-BOSSIER
 WINDOWS
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City
 Louisiana

www.shreve.net/~cbwug

Volume 10 No 11

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

November 2008

October Meeting

By Glenda Conradi



Group listens to presentation on Windows Vista

Bernie Conradi presented a very interesting and informative program that gave us information on how to use the Microsoft Vista operating system. He showed a lot of tips that can save the user time, explained how Vista works and showed some of the things you can do in Vista that are not offered in previous versions of Microsoft operating systems, such as XP. The mem-

bers attending the meeting that have Vista on their computers all said they really like using it.

There are some features, such as being able to have a slide show that will display the photos in multiple folders rather than limiting it to just one folder, that could be very useful.

Some things are done a little differently in Vista, but they are not difficult to get use to.

MEETINGS

Thursday November 13, 2008

Thursday December 11, 2008

Podnuh's Bar-B-Q

1146 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy
 Shreveport, Louisiana

Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month

7 p.m.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



We want to thank Bernie Conradi for presenting the October program covering tips and ways to use Microsoft Vista.

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November Program

By Glenda Conradi

Our November program will be presented by Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group member Allen Marsalis, who is president and CEO of Bandwise LLC.

Allen's topic will be Content Management Systems (CMS) used by site owners and administrators to

manage their own sites without the need for specialized web designers. Should give us some good info on Web page design.

Please join us and bring a friend. Hope to see you Thursday November 13, at Podnuh's Bar-B-Q on Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy.

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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~

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

Nationwide Internet for generously providing an email account and internet access for C-BWUG and for providing web space for our club.

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

~A QUICK TIP~**Missing Run Command Window**

If you have the dilemma of a missing run command window in the Windows XP start menu try this to enable the run command box.

1. Right click your mouse on the start menu icon.
2. A menu will appear. Choose prop-

erties from the menu.

3. Go to the start menu tab.
4. Click on the customize button.
5. Then click on advanced.
6. Now browse for run command and make sure there is a check in the box next to it.

**Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group October Meeting**

The meeting started with a discussion of the various spam and phishing messages that members of the group have received. I read an email that Glenda received asking that you reply to get your tax stimulus payment. Of course it is a scam, also. Jerry Jones asked about Windows Vista and a problem with shutdown every now and then. It was suggested that he try to figure out what program did not close, as the reason for the operating system not being able to shut down. There have not been very many questions the last couple of meetings, and I attribute that to the fact that our computers are running as expected and are not having any difficulties. We are more interested in knowing how to operate them, and spending less time on how to keep them running.

The evening was devoted entirely to Windows Vista. I reviewed numerous tips that I have accumulated over a period of time. Showing these tips gives the people that have Vista some ideas on how to use the operating system and at the same time gives people who do not have Vista a chance to see what it will do. Some of the items we covered were: What is the Navigation Pane and what it does and how to use it, how to add gadgets to the Sidebar, and I showed a couple of additional gadgets that I have installed, and what they do, and how to be safe when trying to get and install additional gadgets. How to speed up external hard drives, how to set up the Quick Launch, and how to access the Quick Launch items using the keyboard. How to use the Search block in the Start Menu to open a program, how to run a slide show from multiple folders, how to get the full path with a click on the Address Bar, how to restore a previous version of a file, how to hide the Trash Can icon, or other icons on your desktop using the Start Menu Properties, and many other items. I hope this presentation will give us a better understanding of the Windows Vista operating system.

The door prize winners for the evening were Thelma Windham selecting the prepaid calling card, and David Huckabee selecting the 2 Gig flash drive.

Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group.

Finally Fast

by Jay Graff

Recently, while driving around, I was listening to the radio in my truck and they had an advertisement on that talked about something called FINALLY FAST. They mentioned how great it was along with the obligatory endorsements from past users. They instructed you to go to a website, www.finallyfast.com. When I got home, I looked for it on the web. Since I had already forgotten the exact URL, I did a search on Google. The second entry there was one that said "Finally Fast does not work" and they directed you to a site called www.windowssaccelerator.com, which supposedly does. I looked at both of them and finally came to the conclusion that they both worked about the same way. In fact, I would venture to say that they all work (or don't work) about equally. The fact remains that if you have a computer with Windows on it and have anything more than your original Windows, you are going to experience slowdowns. As you add programs, items are usually added to the registry. Sometimes you get rid of the programs, but the registry entries remain. Sometimes it adds stuff that you don't need, so for example, a program might tell windows to go out and look for an update, so that could be another reason for some slowdowns. Most of these speed up your system are glorified registry cleaners. Usually they tend to work OK, but the problem comes when you get 1000+ entries and you get rid of them only to find out later that there were some that should have been kept and some programs won't work anymore. This has happened to me on many occasions.

Think of your operating system as getting older. There are things you can't do now that you could when you were say, 18. There are also things that take much more time than before. There is an argument that if you want true (new computer) speed, the only way to

achieve it is the "scorched earth" method. That is to completely reformat your hard drive and start over. Of course this is really traumatic and stressful while you are doing it, but I promise you will get that old time speed back, at least for awhile. Some of the sites you go to are pretty tricky. They offer you a free scan and find tons of bad entries and then tell you that if you want them fixed, you gotta pay for their program. I try to stay away from them. Also it seems that every program finds stuff that another may not have found. I realize that it is important to keep your computer as junk free as possible, but in today's world I don't know if that is possible. Back to "scorched earth" I for one would not do that unless I had to/ I have actually had to and it is not fun. No, my computer is slowing down and every now and then I find a cause, but for the most part, I think I'll just go and take a break when it slows down.

GETTING STARTED TIPS

Check Your Hard Drive

You should regularly check your hard drive disk for things like errors, incorrect file structure, lost clusters and bad sectors.

In windows you can easily access tools to check the health of your hard drive. Here's how to check your hard drive for bad sectors and errors:

1. Go to the Start Menu and choose My Computer
2. Right click on the drive you want to check. I always check C: drive as it is my main drive.
3. Choose Properties from the drop down menu.
4. Click on the Tools tab
5. Here you can press check now to scan your hard disc for errors.
6. A box will appear with some choices. Choose to let Windows fix errors automatically.
7. Then press start.
8. When it is finished scanning a report will appear.

Door Prizes Winners for October 2008 Meeting



Thelma Windham & David Huckabee

The October door prizes were won by Thelma Windham, a 60 minute A T & T phone card and David Huckabee, a 2 Gig Adata flash drive. All Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group club members in attendance are eligible to win door prizes at the monthly meetings.

The Doctor Is In....

By Bob Franklin

You no longer have to depend on third party tools to learn the health of your system. Microsoft has added a new System Health Report utility to all versions of Vista. The utility detects system errors and problems hidden in the operating system and hardware. The System Health Report can diagnose system problems and supply recommendations for a fix. It can also be used to just see how healthy your computer is in general. To generate a Health Report, you will need to do this from within an administrator account or provide the administrator password at the UAC prompt. Click on Start and type in "Performance" (without quotes) and then in the search results click on Performance Information and Tools. Next click on Advanced tools, this will open a list of Performance Tools. Scroll down and click on Generate a system health report. Be patient, it takes about 60 seconds to col-

lect the data necessary to generate the Health Report. The report will be displayed in the Reliability and Performance Monitor window. Any errors or warnings for your system are displayed at the top of the report with a red icon and marked as Failed. The errors will have a description of the symptom, cause, details, resolution and links to any information that might be helpful to fix the issue. You also have the option to save your report as an HTML document for later use.

Now, even though your computer seems to be fine, it's recommended that you generate a health report. A system health report should not be treated as the one and only solution for finding and evaluating possible problems with your computer, but it could be used as a good indicator of possible problems. You may be surprised by what it finds.

~Web Sites~

MalekTips

<http://malektips.com/>
(Free Computer and Technology Help ... over 3,360 Tips to help you Save Time and Get More Enjoyment out of Computers, Digital Cameras, and Technology.)

New PC?

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/moredone/yournewpc.mspx>
(Tools, products and tips to help you get started with a new PC)

Oodle

<http://www.oodle.com/>
(Oodle is a whole new way to shop classifieds and find what you are looking for on the Internet. Just type in what you are trying to find and chances are Oodle will get you results.)

Sandlot

<http://www.sandlotscience.com/>
(Welcome to the Exciting World of Optical Illusions. Featuring the world's most mind-boggling and interactive live optical illusions, games, puzzles! 100's of Original Exhibits.)

eHow

<http://www.ehow.com/>
(eHow is the world's most popular place to find step-by-step instructions on how to do just about everything.)

State and Local Government

<http://www.statelocalgov.net/index.cfm>
(The State and Local Government Internet directory provides convenient one-stop access to the websites of thousands of state agencies and city and county governments.)



DID YOU KNOW?

You can press the Ctrl + A keyboard shortcut to select everything on a page. Just click once on the page you want to copy, press Ctrl and A at the same time and everything is selected!

Guest, Francine Huckabee draws the name of the first door prize winner, Thelma Windham, at the October C-B WUG meeting

