



Brevard Users Group



July 2011



Broadband2Go

*By John Roy, President, The PCUG of Connecticut
March issue, The Program
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I have been itching to purchase an AirCard® for my laptop computer. We take several trips during the year with our Roadtrek motor home and, while Wi-Fi hotspots are more abundant these days, Instant Internet access is really appealing. Unfortunately for this instant gratification you have to pay a big price. Being frugal I wasn't prepared to commit to a two-year contract at \$60 per month for the privilege.

For those of you not familiar with an AirCard, it is a high-speed wireless broadband card that gives users mobile Internet access on their laptops, using a cellular data service. AirCards can be purchased from wireless providers in various styles such as USB, PCMCIA, ExpressCards and as a portable router. It's interesting to note that AirCard is a registered trademark but used generically to describe these devices such as we use Xerox and Kleenex.

Last year my daughter needed daily email and texting capability that her present cell phone did not provide. She already had an iPod Touch but Wi-Fi hotspots were limited. I researched various options to

find a minimal cost solution and focused on Virgin Mobile's Broadband2Go MiFi 2200 credit card router. The driving factor was Virgin Mobile had the cheapest data plans without any contract obligations.

The MiFi 2200 router is unbelievably small just like a credit card and can serve five computers at the same time. There is an initial cost of \$150 for the device but then you can buy air time to fit your needs. This device is extremely portable and will run four or more hours without a recharge.

After monitoring my daughter's success with the MiFi 2200, and knowing we were taking an extended trip with our motor home, I decided the time and price was right for my purchase. Virgin Mobile sells two broadband products with the same data plan options. In addition to the \$150 MiFi 2200 they sell a \$80 USB MC760 device. The MC760 plugs into any USB port but unlike the MiFi router it is dedicated to the one computer.

After reviewing the pros and cons for my situation, I chose the MC760. I didn't have a need for sharing my hotspot with five computers, the USB device didn't require a battery, and I saved myself \$70. Of course the best part is I was not locked into a contract and could buy time as needed.

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Secretary's Report

By Gervase Bushe

Brevard Users Group
Minutes of General Meeting
June 9th, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6.30 PM by President Larry French.

There were about 19 members present. There was one guest named Winnie. She was welcomed and said she had come because her children had given her a new computer with Windows 7 and she was having trouble to operate it.

Larry said we would try to help her, and hoped she would get something out of it, and would come and visit us again.

Larry next mentioned that there would be no board meeting tonight, it had been moved to the fourth Thursday. He said that the changing of the dues payment date to the 1st of January was coming along fine. He was not sure what we would do when it got down to \$4 or \$2, but we would figure out something. He explained again why we were changing the due date. He also asked us to wait until we got an invoice to pay the dues.

Larry mentioned that we had no speaker tonight so the meeting would be opened up to a question and answer session. He inquired if anyone had something to bring up. Jack Nash had a suggestion as to how the dues might be handled when they got down to the \$4 level. There was some discussion about this with Larry basically agreeing with Jack's suggestion but wanting to leave it up to our membership chairman (Bob Bloch). Jack also said he would like to see someone come in with an iPad and explain to us what it will do over and above a regular computer. Larry held up his cell phone and told us about many of the things it could do, including acting as a wireless router. He said he didn't know anyone who had an iPad at present. He then opened the question and answer session. Someone suggested that our guest Winnie go first. She started to describe her problem, and Larry asked her if she had a laptop,

which she said she had. He suggested that she bring it to a meeting where someone could take her aside and help her with it. He also mentioned the beginners daytime meeting at one senior place in Viera.

There followed a question and answer session regarding member's computer questions. They were ably answered by Chuck Boring in most cases.

Of general interest: In answer to a question by Gervase Bushe about spyware programs, Chuck recommended ditching "Spyware Blaster", and installing a program called "Malware Bytes" which is available in a free version. He is in favor of "Super anti Spyware" also. Larry also recommended updating Adobe programs whenever they announce a new or updated version. He said that if you don't, this is where a lot of bad stuff is coming from.

The meeting ended at approximately 7.50 PM
Respectfully submitted by Secretary Gervase M. Bushe



Treasurer's Report

By: Tom English

**No report this month, Tom is ...
"On The Road Again"**



Space Coast PC Users Group

Meeting/Presentation

When:

July 21st (3rd Thursday of the month) at 6:00PM

Where:

Central Brevard Library and Reference Center, 308
Forrest Avenue, Cocoa, Florida.

Presentation topic for the meeting:

Think you can tell a real website from a false one?

At our July 21st meeting, Russell from **Ingenious Technology** will give a quiz regarding, Actual verses "Phishing" web sites designed to deceive you into giving valuable information.



July BUG Meetings 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Tinkers SIG Call 952-0199 to verify meeting	4 Daytime SIG One Senior Place 8085 Spyglass Hill Rd Viera, FL	5	6	7	8	9
10 Tinkers SIG Call 952-0199 to verify meeting	11	12	13	14 Monthly Meeting Central Baptist Church 2303 Country Club Dr. Melbourne, FL	15	16
17 Tinkers SIG Call 952-0199 to verify meeting	18	19	20	21	22	23 Newsletter SIG Call 728-5979 for information
24 Tinkers SIG Call 952-0199 to verify meeting	25	26	27	28 Windows & Linux SIG Central Baptist Church 2303 Country Club Dr. Melbourne, FL	29	30
31 Tinkers SIG Call 952-0199 to verify meeting						

Oracle and the Future of OpenOffice.org

*By Geof Goodrum, President, Washington Area Computer User Group, VA
December 2010 issue, The Cursor
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Oracle Corporation, a technology company best known for its flagship commercial relational database management software, is alienating the Open Source community it once embraced. In 2008, Sun Microsystems acquired MySQLAB, the company that developed and provided commercial support for the highly popular relational database management system (RDBMS) software, MySQL, which is available in both Open Source and commercial license versions. MySQL is very popular (estimated at over eleven million installations) as backend software used by web sites worldwide, comprising part of the “LAMP” (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PERL/PHP/Python) software stack.

Sun Microsystems is perhaps best known for the Java programming language used to develop software that can run on a wide variety of computer platforms. The Open Source community has been pushing for the release of control over the Java language specification to the community since at least 2004. In 2006, Sun released Java software components under the GNU General Public License, but continued to release “non-free” executable versions.

Sun Microsystems also sponsored the OpenOffice.org community project, which developed and distributed a free, Open Source productivity suite comparable to Microsoft Office and built upon code from the commercial StarOffice product, previously acquired by Sun.

In 2010, Oracle Corporation completed acquisition of Sun Microsystems, including MySQL, Java, and OpenOffice.org. During the acquisition, the MySQL community expressed concerns that Oracle would discontinue support for MySQL as it competed with Oracle’s commercial RDBMS products. While this has not happened, Oracle recently doubled MySQL support service costs.

In August 2010, Oracle sued Google over its implementation of Java in the Linux-based Android operating system, claiming infringement on seven patents. This move alienated the Java developer community.

In September, a core group of over 30 leading contributors to the OpenOffice.org project formed The Document Foundation with support from organizations including Red Hat, Novell, Google, Open Source Initiative, Canonical, and the Free Software Foundation. The Document Foundation’s primary purpose is to support the community development of LibreOffice, a productivity suite built upon the OpenOffice.org source code. This move was in response to ongoing concerns about Oracle’s governance and development process for the OpenOffice.org project, including Oracle’s reluctance to accept patches to the software. The Document Foundation’s stated mission is to facilitate the evolution of the OpenOffice.org Community into a new open, independent, and meritocratic organizational structure within the next few months. An independent Foundation is a better match to the values of our contributors, users, and supporters, and will enable a more effective, efficient, transparent, and inclusive Community. We will protect past investments by building on the solid achievements of our first decade, encourage wide participation in the Community, and co-ordinate activity across the Community.

Oracle responded to the formation of The Document Foundation by insisting that members step down from their positions on the OpenOffice.org project as it created a conflict of interest. As a result, it appears that community developers are migrating from OpenOffice.org to work on LibreOffice.

At this point, it appears that Oracle has squandered whatever credibility it had with the Open Source (MySQL, Java, OpenOffice.org) developer community, and the future of the original OpenOffice.org project is very questionable.

However, expect to see rapid development and improved software quality for LibreOffice under The Document Foundation.



Tor, Anonymity On-line

By Dick Maybach
n2nd (at) charter.net

Tor protects your privacy when you are on-line in two ways: (1) it prevents other users of the network you use to reach the Internet (for example a public Wi-Fi hotspot) from seeing the data you exchange and with whom you communicate and (2) it hides your identity from those with whom you communicate. For most of us, item (1) is more important. For example, when we use a Wi-Fi hotspot to access the Internet, every byte we send and every one we receive is accessible to all its other users. One defense would be to add a separate defensive tool for every offensive one, which is the approach taken to foil Windows viruses. The result will surely be the same – an ever-increasing kit of defensive programs to counter the never-ending supply of offensive programs. A much sounder approach is to run *Tor*, which defends against all such attacks; as a result you need install only one tool. Item (2) is probably less important to you; it prevents sites you visit from knowing who you are or what other sites you've visited. We are seeing ever more intrusions into our privacy by governments and businesses, and *Tor* was developed to help us preserve our privacy, safety, and dignity in the face of this. Although *Tor* is legal in all countries, you can do illegal things using it. In this way, it's similar to the gas pedal on your car, which is essential if you want to go someplace, but must be used with restraint to avoid awkward and expensive discussions with the law.

Tor hides not only what you say, but also who you say it to. You could use it to communicate back home from a location where disclosing your country of origin or religion might expose you to unpleasantness or risk. This feature also allows you to circumvent restrictions that your ISP has placed on the Web sites you visit. It's used by individuals, businesses, activists, reporters, the military, and law enforcement for investigations and to protect themselves, their organizations, and those with whom they communicate. Using it, you can surf the Web, exchange e-mail, use instant messaging, and transfer files. However, please don't just install it and assume you're safe. You need to change some of your habits, and reconfigure your software. *Tor* by itself is *NOT* all you need to maintain your anonymity.

Tor consists of two parts – a public, secure virtual private network (VPN) and the software to access it. The software is free and available for Windows, Mac OS X, Linux, and some smart phones at: <http://www.torproject.org/>. Most PC and Mac users will want the *Tor Browser Bundle*, which includes the Firefox browser. (For reasons you can read on the *Tor* Web site, neither Internet Explorer nor Safari is suitable for secure browsing.) The *Tor* VPN is distributed and accessible worldwide, is free, and is provided and maintained by volunteers. Because the network consists of thousands of independent Web sites, it's quite robust; there is no single point of failure.

How does *Tor* work? When you access the Internet with it, you first communicate with a *Tor Directory Server* over an encrypted link (one with a URL beginning `https://`). Here, you obtain a list of available *Tor Nodes*. The *Tor* software on your computer selects at least three of these; call them Node 1, Node 2, and Node 3. It then sets up a secure link to Node 1, which forwards your traffic to Node 2, which forwards it to Node 3. All these links are secure, and only Node 3 can decrypt your packets. Finally Node 3 sends your packets to your desired end site. Note that if the end site is secure (indicated by a URL beginning with `https://`), even Node 3 can't read your data. Packets coming to you follow the reverse path, Node 3 encrypts them in such a way that only you can do the decryption. As far as the end site knows, it is communicating with Node 3; it has no way of finding your computer's URL. An observer on your local network knows only the URL of the *Tor* Directory Server and Node 1; he can't find the location of the end site or read any of your packets. Only Node 1 knows your location, and only Node 3 knows that of the end site. Note that Node 3 can also see the data you exchange, unless you're using end-to-end encryption, i.e., talking to a site with a URL beginning `https://`.

When you install *Tor*, you will also install the *Torbutton* add-on for Firefox, which allows you to turn *Tor* anonymous browsing on and off. Turning *Tor* on changes some of Firefox's operation.

None of the cookies you acquired during normal browsing will be available. This is because cookies can tell the site you are communicating with a lot about you

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Tor ... Continued from Page 6

and which sites you've visited. As a result, you will have to reenter passwords where they are required. These cookies will return when you toggle Tor off.

- Some sites will be displayed in a foreign language. Since they don't know where you are, they assume you are located in the same country as Node 3. See the Tor site for work-arounds.

- You will see moderate delays while surfing the Web. There are at least three intermediate sites on the path to your final destination, and several layers of encryption are involved. While the delays are noticeable, I haven't found them to be obnoxious, and I consider it a good trade-off to achieve better security.

Many users need only browser access to the Internet when away from home, since through it they can also exchange e-mail and transfer files. (I've found that the FireFTP add-on is convenient for the latter, but see the Tor site for instructions on how to configure it and follow these exactly.) If you want to use secure instant messaging, use *Pidgin*, which Windows and OS X users can obtain by installing the *Tor IM Bundle*, available on the Web site. (Pidgin is in most Linux repositories.) You can't use Tor for file sharing, i.e., using BitTorrent; instead use the I2P network, <http://www.i2p2.de/>. See the Tor site for how to configure other Internet access programs, including some that provide access to your home computer. However, if you really need access to files on your home computer, it would be better to transfer them to your laptop or to a cloud service before you go. Otherwise, a power transient or other failure could disable your computer until you return home to restore it.

Accessing the Internet away from home without Tor is like driving without insurance, you can *almost* always get away with it. That doesn't mean it's a smart thing to do.



I found out that it's not good to talk about my troubles. Eighty percent of the people who hear them don't care and the other twenty percent are glad you're having trouble.

Tommy LaSorda, LA Dodgers manager

This and That or Things That May Interest You

*By Lynn Page, Editor, Crystal River Users Group,
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Windows Explorer Check Boxes

I use the Control key to make multiple selections in Windows Explorer but you can also use check boxes. With Windows 7 in Windows Explorer, click Organize and select Folder and search options in the drop down menu. Select the View tab and in the Advanced Settings window scroll down, check the box for Use check boxes to select items and click OK. Then when hovering the mouse over a file in Windows Explorer, a check box appears next to it. Click the check box to select the file. The checked box remains next to the file. Clicking it again removes the check and the box disappears when the mouse is moved away.

Windows 7

Run Multiple Copies of Applications from the Taskbar If a program is already running, to launch another copy of the application from the taskbar, hold down the Shift key and click the icon.

Outlook 2007

Find Related Messages or Messages from Same Sender

To find related messages, right-click the message, on the drop down menu select FindAll and then select Related Messages. The Advanced Find dialog box appears with a list of related messages. To find all messages from the same sender, right-click the message, on the drop down menu select FindAll and then click Messages from Sender. The Advanced Find dialog box appears with a list of related messages.

Color Code Outlook Items

Color categories can be assigned to items like messages, contacts, appointments and tasks. So color code messages, tasks, and calendar items relating to the same project with the same color. For an existing item like a message in the Inbox, right-click it, point to Categorize, and click a color category.

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This and That ... Continued from Page 7 **Reading Pane**

The Reading Pane lets you read the content of a message, preview and open attachments, follow a hyperlink, use voting buttons, view the follow-up information in the InfoBar, and respond to meeting requests.

Preview Messages without Opening

View messages safely in the Reading Pane. Potentially malicious scripts or attachments are not activated or opened automatically in the Reading Pane.

View Email Properties

When viewing a message in the Reading Pane, view email properties about a name in the From, To, or Cc field by double-clicking it .

Turn on or Off

Turn the Reading Pane on or off in the View drop down menu.

To turn the Reading Pane on in the View menu, point to Reading Pane, and then click Right or Bottom to specify where it will appear. To turn the Reading Pane off in the View drop down menu, point to Reading Pane and select Off. On the View menu, point to Reading Pane, and then click Right or Bottom.

Preview an Attachment in the Reading Pane

With the Reading Pane you can quickly see what the attachment contains without opening it. But you need the appropriate 2007 Office application installed on your computer.

To Preview an attachment, in the message list, select the message that has the attachment. in the Reading Pane, select the attachment and click the Preview file button. To return to the message body, click the Message button.

AutoPreview

Another way to quickly scan through email is using AutoPreview. I personally use AutoPreview only and do not have the Reading Pane turned On. It displays the first three lines of each message in the message list, along with the sender's name and the subject line. In the View drop down menu, point to Current View, and then click **Customize Current View**. Click **Other Settings**, and then click **Preview** unread items.

AutoPreview and the Reading Pane can be applied to any mail folders, like Sent Items and Drafts, but must be set for each folder.

Windows Live Mail

Options

Access Mail, EmailAccount, Newsgroup, Feeds and Safety options through the drop down menus.

Write Messages Offline

Windows Live Mail saves messages on your hard drive, rather than on the web. So when travelling or using an unsecured WI-FI write messages and read those already downloaded while offline. Then connect to the Internet to download new email and send messages you have ready and waiting in the Outbox.

Add Recipients to Windows Live Mail Contacts

To add other recipients of an email, right-click on the recipient, select Add to Contacts and confirm the details. This works for recipients in the To and CC lists. Right clicking a recipient already in the Contacts list offers an Edit Contact option.



SMACK DOWN

By: Kentucky's junior Senator
Well said. You gotta see this!!!
<http://tinyurl.com/3hmb7ff>

From the Editor

This hits home for my wife and I, we tried to replace the nightlight bulb in our bathroom. The only ones we could buy to replace the 7Watt bulb where 4 Watts.

My Wife has the bruises on her arm, from walking into the dresser, to prove it.



PC Repair, software or hardware.



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Digital Asset Management Software

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February 2011 issue, k-Byte™newsletter

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What is interesting to me is that many of today's digital imaging software applications offer both image editing and what is called "Digital Asset Management" (DAM) capabilities.

In the not-so-distant past, the only image software choice was what image editor to use (Photoshop or something else). But with the "explosion" of digital camera use, keeping track of all the images (and protecting intellectual property rights) has clearly become a significant issue. While this is certainly an issue especially for professional photographers, with digital cameras, even the most casual photographer will soon find hundreds, if not thousands of photos on their computer.

Perhaps you are thinking, as you read this, that you don't need image management of any kind, because your digital camera provides all the necessary information.

Actually, that is NOT the case. The camera provides information about camera settings (including date and time of the photo). But not included in that data is information such as the event (e.g., parent's 50th wedding anniversary), or the names of the people in the photo. Yes, you may have an excellent memory, but your children and grandchildren probably won't remember or know the names of all the people in the photos of those special events (I can verify that from personal experience).

That is why image management software is so helpful—it allows you to capture that information. You have a wide range of software choices for this application:

1. DigiKam (<http://www.digikam.org/>), an image management application claimed to be designed by

photographers, and is open source and therefore free. This application offers both DAM and image editing capabilities (which are significant, although not equivalent to the editing features of Photoshop or GIMP). For Windows users, you can download the Windows version from download (<http://bit.ly/hWfFrT>).

2. DigitalPro (<http://bit.ly/faHwgJ>), also claimed to be designed by photographers, and is proprietary (\$179). This application is primarily for image management (and primarily for professional or advanced amateur photographers), not image editing.

3. Bibble Labs (<http://bibblelabs.com/>) Pro (and Lite). This proprietary application (\$199.95) offers both editing and DAM features. One major claim on their website is that this application is faster than any other. For a list of editing tools this application provides, connect to features (<http://bit.ly/82JzsV>).

4. Adobe CS3 (and later) applications. The Adobe Bridge program is bundled with the CSx (the latest release is CS5) series of Adobe products. In my case, I received it when I purchased Adobe InDesign CS3. Adobe Bridge brings DAM features to the Adobe products, all of which, as I am sure you know, are very expensive applications (full retail price for Photoshop CS5 is \$699). They are, however, designed for professional/business use, originally commercial printing, but now expanded into electronic publishing as well. The Adobe products (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign among others), despite the many competitors, are still considered industry "standards." For more information on these products, connect to Adobe (<http://www.adobe.com>).

5. Adobe Lightroom. From Wikipedia (<http://bit.ly/3wnGqF>) is this description: Lightroom is an application "...designed to assist professional photographers in managing thousands of digital images and doing post production work. It is not a file browser like Adobe Bridge, but rather an image management application database which helps in viewing, editing, and managing digital photos, the same way photographers used to do in the non-digital world." Connect to Lightroom (<http://adobe.ly/6dBlz>) for a list of features. Full retail price is \$299.

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Digital Asset ... Continued from Page 9

6. For the casual computer user/casual photographer, there is Google Picasa (<http://picasa.google.com/>). It offers simple image organizing features and a few simple editing features. It is free, and “automatic.” After you download and install the program, it will, when you first launch it, catalog virtually all the images (with a few minor exceptions) on your computer.

7. Most, if not all major camera makers provide some software with their cameras that include some basic image organization and image editing features.

There are many other choices, some of which you can find in the Wikipedia comparisons at: image viewers (<http://bit.ly/asWUi>), image organizers (<http://bit.ly/CNnwr>), and graphics editors (<http://bit.ly/10xtOU>).

I ended up with Adobe Bridge “by default.” Since I make no claim to being a professional photographer, or even (yet) a knowledgeable amateur, I would very probably have picked a free application (such as DigiKam) for “Digital Asset Management” if I didn’t already have Bridge.

For me, Picasa does not have enough features. However, I expect it will be sufficient for many digital camera users.

I have not tried to compare in detail either editing features or DAM capabilities of these programs. I have, however, scanned through the DigiKam manual (<http://bit.ly/hZaFX9>). My conclusion is that if you download and install DigiKam and GIMP, you will have a very powerful, very feature-rich set of image editing and image management tools.

Thanks to FRPCUG member Bert Broekstra for his comments on DigiKam, and for finding the DigiKam PDF manual link.



This July will have 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays.

Windows 7 Bible

*Wayne O . Evans, Member, Tucson Computer Society, Arizona
February 2010 issue, TCS eJournal
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Quick Review

This is a well-written in-depth discussion of Windows 7 features. The information is well presented for both novice and experienced Windows 7 readers. The book is loaded with illustrations and tips that help explain the details of Windows 7. The size of the book (over 1200 pages) makes it awkward to carry around.

There are 11 parts, 10 major topics and the appendix. Every part (section) concludes with a discussion of trouble-shooting. Each of the 54 chapters has a trouble-shooting and wrap-up summary, I recommend reading the wrap-up first for a quick preview of the material in the chapter, and then as intended, for review of the chapter.

Part 1 – Getting Started, Getting Secure

The first chapter covers the new features in Windows 7. Essential start-up information is provided under the setting up of user accounts and use of parental controls.

Part 2 – Batten Down the Security Hatches

Security features of virus checkers, firewalls, and the need to install security updates are explained. The anti-virus discussion could have included some details explaining how virus checkers function and the importance of automatic update of virus signatures. (See suggestion at end of review.)

Part 3 – Personalizing Windows 7

The personalization of the desktop and start-up procedures describe how to customize the appearance and function of Windows 7. The tip in Chapter 13 on customizing the system to bypass the logon page is useful. Chapter 14 focuses on accessories and how to transfer files from one system to another.

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Part 4 – Using the Internet

The discussion on Internet Explorer covers its basic functions but explains other features. I found this to be an excellent chapter. There is extensive discussion on Windows Live Mail and blogs. The section concludes with a discussion of trouble-shooting internet problems.

Part 5 – Pictures, Music, and Movies

There is a lengthy discussion of media (pictures, music, movies) file types. Importing media into your computer is described for DVD and VCD. This section should be read multiple times, as there is a wealth of information.

Part 6 – Managing Files and Folders

“Where is my data?” is one of the most frequent questions asked by the novice user. That question and more are answered in this section. The discussion of basics of drives, folders and files is a MUST READ for computer novices. The management and search options explain needed skills to manage data on your computer.

Part 7 – Printing, Faxing, and Scanning

Details on printer installation are followed with information on how to print documents and manage printer jobs. The scanning and faxing of documents is covered.

Part 8 – Installing and Removing Programs

One chapter is devoted to installing and upgrading new programs. The use of the compatibility features to run programs written to run on earlier versions (DOS, Windows 95/98/XP) is explained.

One chapter focuses on repair and removal of programs. The chapter on default programs is valuable for even the experienced user. The section concludes with a chapter on the Part 9 Hardware and Performance Tuning. I did not expect hardware installation and removal in a Windows 7 discussion. The greatest value of this section is that it serves as a primer to hardware features (USB ports, master and slave drives, disk partitioning and Bluetooth devices). Installing and removing hardware is well written. However, I recommend you consider more detailed documentation before attempting major hardware changes (CPU Upgrade and hard drive).

The configuration of file systems for hard drives and disk partitioning is also not for novices. The section concludes with syncing devices and trouble-shooting.

Chapter 49 on performance tuning is a MUST READ for those wishing to get the most out of their system. The author does an excellent job describing the basic features of the Windows 7 Performance Monitor in a limited number of pages, but he admits it is a complex topic and could easily cover several chapters.

Part 10 – Networking and Sharing

Wired and wireless LAN (Local Area Network) connections and routers are explained with recommendations for planning and installing a home network. File and hardware sharing configuration is well documented.

Part 11 – Appendices

Since new computers will likely have Windows 7 installed, Appendices A and B will have little use for the majority of users. Appendix A is a discussion on how to upgrade Windows Vista to Windows 7. Appendix B describes the installation of Windows 7 on a new system.

Appendix C on shortcut keys is very useful. I have copied these seven pages for quick reference.

Other Comments

General

As an experienced user of Windows 7 I enjoyed reading *The Windows 7 Bible*. While reviewing it I discovered new and very useful information. The right amount of detail is provided, so it is possible to discover new ways to use specific Windows features. I liked the TIPS and SUMMARY at the end of each chapter. The information was well organized and illustrations helped me understand the concepts.

The *Windows 7 Bible* is an excellent book but I would not recommend it as the first book a novice picks up. The author has done an excellent job making the information easy to read and understand, but the sheer size of the book could discourage a novice reader. I see three ways to read the book:

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Windows 7 Bible ... Continued from Page 11

1) Read the book from start to finish (not advised). Better to follow the author's recommendations in Chapter 1 and skip around to chapters of interest.

2) Read the Chapter wrap-up summaries first; then read the Chapters that interest you (I recommend this method).

3) Use it as the excellent reference it is. There are so many options it is difficult to remember all of the details. When I wanted to refresh my memory on how to accomplish some task, I found the Windows 7 Bible was well organized so I could find the answer to my question quickly.

Suggested Improvements

While it is often difficult to challenge the author, in some cases I felt some improvements to the material would be useful. These are specific recommendations:

Chapter 8: The discussion on virus protection could be improved with the following

How do Virus Scanners Work: You may have seen the posters in a public building of individuals wanted by law enforcement. The picture shows the image of the suspected criminals. Virus checkers use a similar technique: the picture is similar to the virus signature. The virus signature is a sequence of bits (data) that can be found in the virus and the virus scanner simply looks for that sequence to detect a virus.

Keep your virus signatures up to date: Reverting back to the picture analogy, it is essential to have pictures of current criminals posted. In a similar manner the virus scanner must have virus signatures for the latest virus. The third party vendors provide an update facility to download the current virus signatures. You should allow your virus signatures to be updated on a regular basis. I recommend at least daily.

Free Virus Checkers: While third party vendors offer virus scanners for a fee, some vendors (Avast, AVG FREE) offer a scaled down version of their product, often for no charge.

For those cost-conscious individuals, if you elect not to install a virus checker because of cost, then look for and install the free versions. Most free virus checkers provide a high degree of protection and are recommended if you elect not to buy a more complete version.

About: Windows 7 Bible

Author: Jim Boyce

Publisher: Wiley

<http://bit.ly/dS4cBN>

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The Control Panel – Extremely Useful

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Just as you can use a car without manipulating anything under the hood, you can also use a computer without changing any settings. However, at a certain point you will want to correct a setting, uninstall a program, change the way your mouse works, or add another user to your computer. All of these functions and many more are found in the Windows Control Panel. Don't worry though; the Control Panel is much easier to navigate than the cables, wires, and mechanisms that you find under the hood of a car...and you can use the tools in the Control Panel without getting your hands dirty.

In geek-speak, the Control Panel is the central location for all of the Windows operating system configuration needs. In everyday terms, it's the place where you can work with the many tools that Windows offers to change and customize all of the settings. The Control Panel is part of the Windows operating system's graphical interface. As such, you will find that it consists of easy-to-understand icons that are each labeled as to their function.

The Control Panel has been around since the first version of Windows. Over the years, it has morphed into a very useful set of management tools for your computer. In a car you need to know where the hood release lever is, in Windows, you need to know how to access the Control Panel.

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Windows Vista and Windows 7, you can access the Control Panel by clicking on the Start button and choosing Control Panel from the right column of choices. In Windows XP, you will click Start, then choose Control Panel from the left column. If you don't see the Control Panel listed, click on Settings from the left column and then click on Control Panel.

The Control Panel is a little different in Windows XP than it is in Vista and Windows 7. So let's talk about XP first. By default, the Windows XP Control Panel appears in what is called "Category View". This means that various functions have been put into Categories. Previous versions of Windows showed a list of icons, one for each function, in Windows XP, this is called the "Classic View". When you open the Control Panel in Windows XP if you see several categories listed you are in "Category View". If you see a window full of individual icons, you are in "Classic View". You can change the view by clicking on the words "Switch to Classic View" or "Switch to Category View" which is on the left side of the screen. Check out these two options and see which one you like. You can switch between them quite easily at any time.

In Windows Vista, you have the same choices, but you may have to click on "Control Panel Home" on the left side of the screen before you can click on "Classic View" or "Category View".

Microsoft made some changes in the Control Panel in Windows 7. They have eliminated the name Classic View. In Windows 7 you will see the words "View by" on the upper right side of the screen. Click on the down arrow next to those words and you will have three views to choose from: Category, Large Icons, or Small Icons. This Icon view is really the same as the Classic View. I prefer to use the Classic or Icon view, but again, you can check out all the views and see which one you like best.

There are 45 icons in the icon view in Windows 7 and about the same number in previous versions. If you look at the Classic or Icon view, you will see that the icons have labels, like Display, Sound, Power Options, Mouse, Keyboard, UserAccounts, Folder Options, and Devices and Printers. You can click on any of these icons to open a window that will allow you to adjust, correct,

and/or customize the settings of these areas. Take a look around. Check out Mouse area first. When you click on the mouse icon a windows with options will appear. It will have tabs at the top. You can click on each tab to see even more options. If you have never looked at these before you will be amazed at the number of things that you can do to customize your mouse. You can switch the buttons if you are left-handed. You can speed up and/or slow down the double-click speed. You can change the looks of the pointer. If you are using a mouse with a scroll wheel, you can even change how the wheel behaves.

Try a few things. The only caveat here is to document the changes that you are making so you can change them back if you want to.

Each of the items in the Control Panel allows you to change the settings in your computer. Look through and open up a few of them. There are hundreds of things that you can change and/or customize in the Windows operating system. Some of the Control Panel items are very useful for everyday tasks in Windows. Be sure to take a look.



Heading North ?

Send your new address to the Editor at:

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And to the Treasurer at:

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A "Round Tuit"

We are pleased to present you with a "Round Tuit", these are very valuable, take proper care of it !

You can now complete all the tasks that you said you would do "as soon as I get a round tuit"



Broadband 2 Go ... Continued from Page 1

Is buying an Air card from Virgin Mobile a "no brainer" for everyone? The answer is no but it should be on everyone's evaluation list. Here are some key considerations beyond the primary driver of saving money. Their cellular service is the Sprint 3G network with good coverage in populated areas or primary highway corridors but poor coverage in other less populated areas. You should check their coverage map to be sure you will have a good signal for your specific needs.

There is some good news and a little concern on their data plans. Last year they offered a \$10 (10 day 100MB) and a \$40 (30 day unlimited) plan. This February they increased the \$40 plan to \$50 and put some speed restrictions beyond 5GB but the deal is better than competing providers. While the price hike was concerning, there is an unpublicized secret you should know. If you purchase either device from Wal-Mart you are offered an optional \$20 (30 day 1GB) plan.

How the plans work is when you start using a plan it will end when either the time period or data limit is met. On the \$50, 30-day unlimited data plan when you reach 5GB of data use your speed will be limited to 256kbps for the remainder of the time period.

One final note is both devices have several neat software options beyond the basic application.

The MC760 has a micro SDHC memory card slot and the capability of adding an optional antenna to increase range. Documentation is less than meager and only includes startup instructions but once initiated the setup is interactive. Most importantly you can find a detailed manual on line. If you are in the market for an AirCard or curious for more details, visit their website.

<http://www.virginmobileusa.com/mobile-broadband/>





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Windows 8

A peek at Windows 8, be sure to watch the Video at the end of the article.

<http://tinyurl.com/3dnzdox>



Dropbox Security Flaw:

Regarding last months article on the Drop Box program, Jack Nash has sent a couple of updates.

<http://tinyurl.com/688u4tp>

<http://tinyurl.com/4ycnetr>



A Letter to the Boss

From e-mail

Dear Boss,

I have enjoyed working here these past several years. You have paid me very well, given me benefits beyond belief. I have 3-4 months off per year, a health plan that most people can only dream about, and a pension plan that will pay my salary till the day I die.

I plan to take the next 12-18 months to find a new position. During this time I will show up for work when it is convenient. In addition, I fully expect to draw my full salary and all the other perks associated with my current job.

Oh yeah, if my search for this new job proves fruitless, I will be back with no loss in pay or status. Before you say anything, remember that you have no choice in the matter. I can and will do this.

Sincerely,
Every Senator or Congressman running for President

Try that at your job and tell me how it works out.



Brevard Users Group Membership Application

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Address _____ City _____
Home Phone _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____
Family Membership \$25.00 E-mail Address _____

Special Interest Groups

Afternoon Meeting

An afternoon meeting is held on the first Monday of the month at 2pm, in One Senior Place, 8085 Spyglass Hill Rd, Viera.

WINDOWS SIG Meets 7:00 PM

On the second and fourth Thursdays at the Central Baptist Church
2503 Country Club Rd Melbourne

BEGINNERS SIG (Newbies)

Meets at 6:30 pm. The 4th Thursdays, at the Central Baptist Church

IMAGING SIG

Meets at 7:00 PM the fourth Thursday, at the Central Baptist Church

NEWSLETTER SIG

Meets on the second Saturday after the BUG monthly meeting.
Place is Jim Townsend's home.
Call 728-5979 for directions.

LINUX SIG

Meets on the Fourth and Fifth Thursday at the Central Baptist Church

TINKERS SIG

Meets on most Sundays at Bob Schmidt's house.
Call 952-0199 to verify meeting and directions.
E-mail: rschmidt@cfl.rr.com

BUG Club Information

BUG E-MAIL LIST

To be included in the BUG E-Mail roster, send an E-Mail to Larry French at:
president@bugclub.org.

We will need your full name, E-Mail address and your BUG membership number. You will then receive notices and updates on BUG activities, special events, changes to schedules, etc.

BUG Officers

Meet on the Second Thursday of the month
After the Monthly Meeting at the Central Baptist Church

Advertising Rates

	4 Months	8 Months	12 Months
Full Page	\$160.00	\$305.00	\$440.00
Half Page	\$85.00	\$162.00	\$232.00
Qtr Page	\$45.00	\$86.00	\$123.00
Bus Card	\$25.00	\$48.00	\$68.00

Moving ?

Don't miss out on any issues of the BUG Newsletter
Send your new address to:
Brevard Users Group Att: Treasurer
PO Box 2456
Melbourne, FL 32902-2456
And e-mail to the Newsletter and Treasurer at:
newsletter@bugclub.org
treasurer@bugclub.org

**Brevard Users Group
Incorporated
P. O. Box 2456
Melbourne, FL 32902-2456**

Monthly Meetings:

Are held at the second Thursday of the month at Central Baptist Church 2503 Country Club Rd Melbourne at 6:30 PM.

Membership:

Is by application and payment of \$25.00 annual dues. Membership is for 12 months from receipt of dues and includes a year's subscription to the newsletter.

Your membership expires on the date indicated in the upper left of your address label (YYYYMM). Please allow six weeks for processing the renewal.

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