



# Brevard Users Group



November 2010



## Another Users Group Gives Up

From Bob Click, *The Deals Guy*

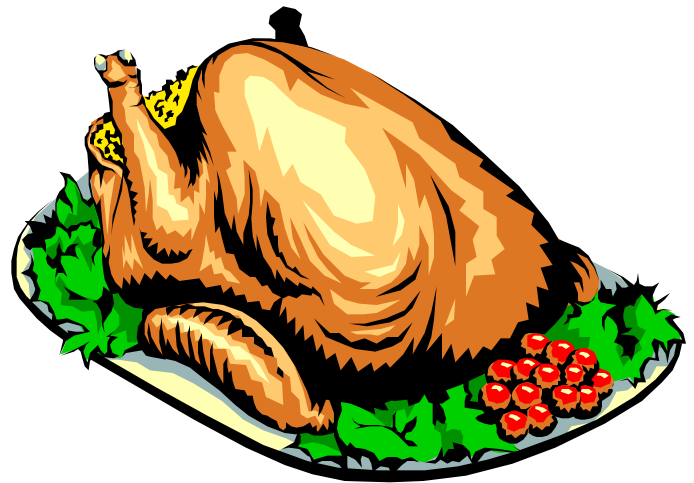
The San Diego Personal Computer User Group was disbanding. They have published the DealsGuy column for years and Dick has been the editor for years. Their membership was at an all time low and so was their meeting attendance.

I didn't ask when I called him, but I assume that, like most groups, the officers have all held their jobs for years. Their final meeting will be sort of a party without smiles, but most of the active members are likely to affiliate with other computer related groups in the area. In their good times, they had about 200 members.

With all of the help for computer users, and the great camaraderie, it's hard to think that user groups are becoming an endangered species



*Men are like.....Bank Accounts.  
Without a lot of money, they don't generate much interest.*



## Happy Thanksgiving

**BCTS** Small Business & Home Support Specialists  
BREVARD COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

**Jeff Harrison**  
President

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## Secretary's Report

By: Eileen M. Cameron

BREVARD USER'S GROUP MEETING  
October 14, 2010

1. President Larry French called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
2. Larry needs volunteers for the Christmas party on December 16, 2010.
3. Larry stressed we need a President, Vice President, and a Secretary. We need officers or we will have to close up the club.
4. Larry needs e-mail address corrected to avoid rejected meeting notices.
5. We will have a Board of Directors meeting tonight.
6. Our speaker for the evening was Sue Small, Director of the Florida Wildlife Hospital and Sanctuary. It is a nonprofit organization with no state or federal funding. She brought a live American Kestrel Bird and a Barred Owl with her. She presented very interesting facts about the work and care that is given to the native Florida wildlife and migratory birds. Many volunteers help with the care of this work and funds are provided by donations.
7. Questions and answer began after the speaker. Chuck Boring fielded the questions.
8. 20 members were present.
9. Prizes were won by Loretta Mills, a ream of copy paper and John McCorquodale won the 4X6 photo paper.
10. Meeting was adjourned at 750 PM.

Secretary,  
Eileen M. Cameron



## Treasurer's Report

By: Tom English

### September (2010)

#### EXPENSES

Postage	\$ 52.46
Office Supplies	\$ 10.97
Printing	\$ 60.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$123.43</b>

#### INCOME

Dues	\$125.00
Interest	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>

#### ASSETS

Checking	\$1,301.90
Savings	\$2,021.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,321.80</b>

Renewals:

FLOWERS, Roy	1271
FISHER, Eric & Antoinette	1318
GILBERT, Allan	1007
GUNDLACH, William	1219
MACNEILL, John	0390



## Internet about to hit 2 billion users

The number of internet users worldwide has doubled in the past five years according to the report, from the International Telecommunication Union.

<http://tinyurl.com/2g8loku>



*Men are like.....Blenders.  
You need one, but you're not quite sure why.*

# November BUG Meetings 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Daytime SIG One Senior Place 8085 Spyglass Hill Rd Viera	2	3	4	5	6
7 Tinkers SIG Call 952-0199 to verify meeting	8	9	10	11 Monthly Meeting Central Baptist Church 2303 Country Club Dr Melbourne FL	12	13
14 Tinkers SIG Call 952-0199 to verify meeting	15	16	17	18	19	20 Newsletter SIG Call 728-5979 for information
21 Tinkers SIG Call 952-0199 to verify meeting	22	23	24	25 NO MEETING Enjoy your Turkey	26	27
28 Tinkers SIG Call 952-0199 to verify meeting	29	30				

## ADJUSTING EXPOSURE 101

*Jerry Schneir, a member of the Los Angeles Computer Society, California  
June 2010 issue, LACS User Friendly  
www.lacspc.org  
editor (at) lacspc.org*

How often do we simply aim the camera at a scene and press the shutter button relying on the camera's sophisticated metering system to read multiple parts of the scene and calculate a proper exposure, whatever that is? For most of us, that is the "normal" picture taking routine. Yet, many of us invest in far more capable cameras but we, far too often, seek the easy way out, we set the camera on AUTO and shoot away. On even the least expensive cameras, the camera's meter may read a few or as many as 256 parts of the scene to obtain a "normal" exposure. And yet, even here, you have the ability to tell the camera an alternative way to arrive at what may be a better exposure. On some cameras the meter may even detect back lighting or some other difficulty and expose accordingly. And yet, even with all that sophistication, the "normal exposure" may not yield the best or proper exposure for that one scene.

Why? You might ask.

When you point your camera at a subject and press the shutter button halfway down, the camera does several things all at once: (1) the camera may determine the kind of picture you are trying to take, such as landscape, portrait, or night scene; (2) the camera focuses on the subject; (3) the light meter determines a combination of aperture and shutter speed settings; (4) the white balance is calculated and applied; and (5) and an ISO value, the sensitivity of the sensor to light, is applied. The resulting picture has a "normal" exposure for the scene you are taking and will produce an average acceptable image. However, once in a while, the exposure the camera used for that picture may make your Aunt Martha look more like your Uncle Harry. I doubt if Aunt Martha would like that picture because of what that over or under exposure of the main subject can do to the picture.

The nice thing about digital cameras is that you can immediately see if you have a problem. You don't have

to wait a day or a week to find out you have a problem; you can reshoot that picture now. However, that does require taking a look at your LCD and evaluating the image. And if you see that you have a problem, then now is the time to play with the exposure. So where to start and what to do? There are 2 main approaches to this exposure problem, learning how to better aim your camera is one and how to adjust exposure compensation is the other. Here we will mainly deal with just better aiming your camera.

### BETTER AIMING YOUR CAMERA

Overexposed picture - Is the picture too light, details washed out, color faded? This is commonly due to overexposure and is often caused by a well illuminated subject surrounded by large dark areas. The camera sees the light subject and the large dark areas and attempts to average out the scene. The dark areas require more light and that causes more light for the subject resulting in the subject being overexposed, washed out, and missing details in the white or light colored areas.

The easiest way to correct this is to either zoom in on the subject so that the background occupies less space in the picture or to find an area at about the same distance from you but with a more even light on both the subject and background. Aim the camera at this new scene and half-press the shutter. This sets the distance and the exposure. Now, while still holding the shutter down, swing back to your original subject/scene, compose the picture and then finish pressing the shutter button. It is critical that you do not release the shutter button otherwise the camera will read the scene just as before and the exposure will again be off. The result should be a much better exposed subject.

Underexposed picture- If the subject in the picture is too dark, details obscured, then the problem is underexposing the subject. The problem is probably related to the subject being backlit, i.e., the subject is surrounded by bright light coming from behind or the subject is in the dark part of the scene while the major part of the scene is more brightly lit. The camera sees all this light and decreases the amount of light entering the camera. This results in the subject being underexposed, the subject is dark and details are hard to see.

*Continued on Page 6*

### *Exposure ... Continued from Page 5*

Here the trick is to aim the camera at a dark subject surrounded by a dark area that is about the same distance from you. Press the shutter button halfway and while still holding down the button, swing back and recompose the original picture. Same solution as before but here we selected a darker area. When you aim the camera at a darker part of the scene and then hold the shutter button down, the camera determines more light is required. Thus more light is allowed to enter the camera and a previously underexposed subject is now better exposed. In both cases you **MUST** first aim the camera at a lighter or darker area, press the shutter button halfway down and while continuing the pressure on the shutter button, recompose then shoot the picture.

There is another way, some say a harder way, one that involves using exposure compensation (EC). Here you command the camera to over or under expose the picture. A dark subject surrounded by a bright area requires some degree of overexposure in order to get the subject properly exposed. A brightly lit subject surround by a dark background results in the camera wanting to increase the amount of light reaching the sensor. Here you need to tell the camera to decrease the exposure, to underexpose the scene so that the subject is properly exposed. In both cases you tell the camera to ignore the background and expose for the subject.

Adjusting Exposure Compensation.(EC) is via a control available on many cameras, even those designed for rank amateurs. It may be a button marked +/- which when pressed opens a small window similar to this +2 \_1 \_0 \_1 \_2-. You use the right or left buttons that are found on most cameras as part of the 4-way rocker switch. On other cameras you may gain access to this feature as part of the FUNC or MENU.

To properly use this feature requires you to find where to access EC and then to figure out how much to increase or decrease the exposure. Let me briefly explore the use of this important feature with you. Imagine you are in an auditorium. You are at least a 100 feet back from the stage, the house lights are out and only the stage is illuminated. You want to take a picture of one of the performers, perhaps a child or grandchild surrounded by other performers. You zoom in as best

you can but at that distance, a good part of the picture is the unlit background, the part with the performers, the lit part, occupies less than half the image.

There is nothing you can aim your camera at to get a better balanced scene. Your camera will see an expanse of darkness and try to make the black areas grey. In trying to do that, your well lit performers will go almost white, with little to no detail. It would be almost impossible to tell a redhead from a blonde from a dark brunette. Your only solution here is to tell the camera to **UNDEREXPOSE** the picture. In reality, it will reduce the glare of the stage lights and render the background nice and dark, almost or totally black. If well done, you will be able to tell the blond from the redhead or brunette.

The only question is how much to underexpose that picture. No simple answer but start with one stop (-1). As an example, if your camera was going to expose the picture at f3.5 for 1/30 second, that one stop of underexposure would be f3.5 at 1/60 second. The only change you had to make was changing the EC. It is the EC that tells the camera to change the settings according to your directions. Here, one-half the light gets to the sensor.

Only you can tell if that is enough. Look at the image in the LCD and if you can see details in the hair and can tell the color, then you are probably fine. If the picture is still somewhat ghostly, cut back on the light some more, go to 1.5 or 2 stops (-1.5 to -2) of underexposure. Keep checking until the picture looks OK.

I have to raise another point, one that probably should have been discussed much earlier, that of ISO. You may want to take the ISO off AUTO and set it to the lowest or next lowest setting. This may require you to take the camera out of the AUTO mode and put it into a less automated mode such as P (program). The reason for this is that many point and shoot cameras tend to increase the ISO at slow shutter speeds. This tends to result in very grainy looking pictures, not a good thing.

*Continued on Page 7*

### *Exposure ... Continued from Page 6*

I should also warn you about one other problem with EC, that of the camera remembering what you did. If you adjusted EC to take a picture and then turned off the camera and a few minutes, weeks, or months later turned your camera back on, that EC setting may still be active, it will be telling your camera to either over or underexpose the picture. You need to remember to reset that EC setting back to zero before you turn off the camera or before you take another picture under different lighting conditions.

The results of all this effort should be a better exposed picture in which you can tell your Aunt from your Uncle, a redhead from a blond. Another result is the increased satisfaction that you as a photographer get from knowing how and when to make minor adjustments in order to obtain better exposed pictures.



## **Variations On a Theme of Flash Drives**

*Reviewed by Fred Wasserman, Vice President, Programs  
Seniors Computer Group, California  
December 2009 issue, Bits and Bytes  
www.scgsd.org / scgsd (at) cox.net*

Flash drives have become not just interesting little toys but essential storage and data transfer tools. How many of us still use floppy disks to pass data along from one computer to another? They fit in a shirt pocket. For bigger stacks of data, a CD or DVD was necessary, but didn't fit in that shirt pocket. When flash drives came along disk media were relegated to just long-term storage or for sending data by mail. Flash drives in use is doubling every year. That means there is a real opening for manufacturers to come up with newer and better versions of the product.

I came into possession of some really interesting and useful variations on the flash drive, or thumb drive, as it is sometimes called. They both held my interest as very useful devices. One is so small and flat that it can easily be put in your wallet where it would probably make less of a bulge than a folded dollar bill. Great idea. They both come equipped to clip on to your key chain. The larger one, called "TUFF-CLIP" has a retractable protector on

the connector end and a spring latch to connect to anything like a key ring. The little one, called "TUFF-N-TINY" can also be attached to a key chain with the supplied lanyard. A consideration with that USB Drive is you must remember to keep the contacts facing up when connecting it to the USB port, though it won't suffer damage if you don't.

It doesn't just stop there. The TUFF-N-TINY is completely sealed, water and dust resistant, measures just 1 by 1/2 inch and is no thicker than a penny and offers 2, 4 or 8 Gb of storage for \$12 to \$27. Until now, the one flash drive weakness was their fragility. These are complex little devices with their delicate circuit board components within some kind of brittle plastic casing soldered to the external connector. But this Verbatim product addresses the fragility problem by design and elimination of the weakest point, the connector-to-body attachment. The connector, electronics and housing are just a single strong plastic potted circuit board.

TUFF-CLIP, the other innovative USB drive, is an extremely tough unit that is designed for extreme environments and can be clipped to backpacks, belt loops key chains or what have you.

As an added convenience, both come with the application built in to encrypt the data contents in any Windows environment. If lost or stolen, your data is safe but only if you use that capability.

Last, but in no way least, is that these USB drives are enhanced for users of the newer versions of Windows. They are Readyboost capable. You will ask, what is Readyboost? With Windows Readyboost which is available with Windows Vista and Windows 7, you can use appropriately designed USB flash memory to improve performance without having to add additional memory to the computer internals. The flash drive acts as the additional memory cache that, like your installed RAM, can be accessed faster than hard drive storage. Visualize 4- or 8-Gigabytes of additional memory to speed up your large file-intensive programs such as working on a large Photoshop image.

Verbatim, producer of the old 1/2-inch floppy that my first computer ran from has added these new products to its expanding line of useful media and is still making the good stuff.



## Verbatim Nano Wireless Mouse

*Reviewed by Fred Wassermann, Vice President,  
Programs  
Seniors Computer Group, California  
December 2009 issue, Bits and Bytes  
www.scgsd.org / scgsd (at) cox.net*

I just installed a new Verbatim Nano wireless mouse in my notebook computer. I had used another brand of wireless mouse which had a typical 2-inch long wireless receiver. It was satisfactory but because I had to remove the USB receiver to fit it into the carrying case, it was not ideal. It also worried me somewhat as I had already damaged two thumb drives on my desktop computer as well as destroying one USB female socket on that computer. Well, I damaged the one and my 75 pound dog did the other one. I learned but he didn't. You can see one totaled thumb drive below. It doesn't take much to kill one.



This got me thinking about possible damage to the wireless mouse receiver dongle as well as the possibility of damage to the notebook motherboard if anything bumped it or dropped on it. Replacement receivers are about half the cost of the whole mouse setup. Motherboards are very expensive to replace on notebooks. If you look at the Verbatim Nano Mouse in the figures at the top and bottom right, you can see that the receiver is extremely small. It barely projects ¼ inch from the computer. It is just big enough to be removable with thumb and forefinger. It is not likely to be in the path of anything that can break it. Problem solved, worry gone, and my notebook can be packed even with the receiver attached.



How does this mouse compare with other units? At a suggested list of \$29.95, it is the least expensive wireless mouse sold with a tiny receiver dongle like this one. Similar Nano mice are considerably more expensive. The mouse is small, perfectly sized for your notebook, yet quite adequate for the average hand. A rubberized grip makes for easy handling. The Nano has the standard two buttons along with a programmable scroll wheel but no extra programmable function buttons. Of course, the included software allows left- or right-hand use. I found that extra mouse buttons are often accidentally clicked when those functions are least desired. This mouse shuts off to save batteries when not in use. It is not an issue with notebook users, but in my tests, the receiver worked flawlessly at ranges greater than 10 feet from the mouse, well beyond where one can see the cursor on the screen. My present desktop wireless mouse has the stutters when it is only 4 feet from the computer. That can be an issue when a desktop unit is as distant from the mouse as mine is. This would not be a problem with the Verbatim Nano.

Another consideration for those that have built-in Bluetooth in their notebook, this mouse is also available in a Bluetooth unit, requiring no dongle at all. Same price, same functionality.

The Verbatim Nano Mouse functions better than any wireless mouse I have owned. It has very good resolution, offers significant protection from bumping damage due to the small size of the receiver, is less expensive than comparable products, and comes in six colors. I am partial to red.

If you have a notebook, I recommend this product. If you just have a desktop unit I recommend it as a worthwhile accessory. Wireless has come a long way with this product. More info is available at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/29sww5k>



## Along Memory Lane Via YouTube - Part One

*By Marian Smith, a member of the Perth PCUG, Australia  
Axess, Magazine of the Perth PC Users Group, Australia, May 2010 Issue  
www.perthpcug.org.au / editor (at) perthpcug.org.au*

A few months ago the unthinkable happened for those of us who enjoy downloading old music, old movies and other reminders of an almost forgotten era, and then there are some modern-day enjoyments such as some TV documentaries, if they are available from YouTube, that is. Both the previous version of YouTube Downloader and RealPlayer Download stopped working simultaneously. I'm still not aware of the details, but at least the new version of 'YouTube Downloader' (which was version 2.5.3 when this catastrophe occurred) has recently been updated to version 2.5.4, which works and, just a short time ago, I found an update for RealPlayer.

You will find the updated version of YouTube Downloader available from

<http://www.youtubedownload.altervista.org> and the you-beaut point is that is it free. If you bought 'RealPlayer', you can also update it 'free'. RealPlayer Downloader is so simple to use. When you start to play the video-clip you are after, simply move the mouse-pointer to near the top of the main "video" display and a tab will appear, inviting you to 'Download with RealPlayer'. Just click it, and the download will happen automatically. It will be downloaded to a 'RealPlayer' folder created within your 'Videos' folder during RealPlayer's installation. When the download is finished, you can convert the file if you wish, using the included "Convert" function.

If you've been using the YouTube Downloader program through a few of its previous updates, you'll find this version somewhat different in a few aspects. When you find an item you want to download from YouTube, so that you can enjoy watching or listening to it at your leisure, be aware that, now, there is no URL conveniently displayed to the right of the main display. Instead, you get to it by right-clicking on the title displayed above the main part of the screen. A drop-down

menu will appear which includes the word 'Properties' well down the list. Click on it and a panel will appear with the URL displayed in it. Select this URL by dragging your mouse-pointer along it. Then right-click on it and another list will appear with the word 'Copy' included in it. Click on that word, then:-

If you have YouTube Downloader pinned to your 'Start' menu, open it. One button displayed there will be labelled as "Download options. Here is where you can set the program to simply give you the 'best available' sound and picture-quality. Now you just point to the blank 'Download' panel and the URL will be automatically 'pasted' there. That's easy to do, isn't it?

Next, click the OK button and you will see two more messages appear - one asking you if you want to show the file's URL - click OK. The next will simply indicate where the file will be saved - very useful information when you want to find it later. Click 'Save' for that option and the download will begin. You may find that the file-icon with the familiar small picture representing what you downloaded has the RealPlayer logo in one corner. If you have RealPlayer installed, you can play such files with no further attention needed.



## Along Memory Lane Via YouTube - Part Two

*By Marian Smith, a member of the Perth PCUG, Australia  
Axess, Magazine of the Perth PC Users Group, Australia, May 2010 Issue  
www.perthpcug.org.au / editor (at) perthpcug.org.au*

If you want to use Windows Media Player to look-at or listen-to whatever it is you just downloaded, your file needs to be 'converted' to a different type. Here is what you do.

When your download has completed, close all windows except the main window for YouTube Downloader. Click the 'button' next to the word 'Convert,' and a drop-down list of file-types will appear. Choose the file-type you wish to convert to (for Windows Media Player it is WMV7 if it is a video-file you

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## *You Tube Part 2 ... Continued from Page 9*

have just downloaded). Then go to where your original file was saved, so that you can drag its icon across to the 'Convert' option in YouTube Downloader, and its name will appear there automatically. Click OK. A smaller panel will appear, inviting you to adjust picture quality and audio-volume. If the volume is loud and distorted, you can repeat this step over and over – moving the 'volume' slider down more. Each time you save a 'change' you will be asked if you want to replace the file. Click 'Yes'. Don't delete the original 'YouTube' video-file until you are satisfied with the result of the latest change you have made.

When you are finished using YouTube Downloader, remember to close the program by clicking on the 'Close' icon in the top-right corner of its panel, not the OK button. If you click on the OK button, the program will attempt to repeat what it just did.

Finally, it is an unfortunate reality that the new version of YouTube Downloader doesn't convert to .wav format although, strangely, it will convert from the .wav file-format. There is an alternative program available (ConvertHQ), which can handle quite a number of input file-formats including extracting audio information from a video file, but even it doesn't write a .wav file. It writes mp3 files. This program is not free, but it's worth having despite this little inconvenience.

For those of you who know something of 'audio-editing,' if you have Adobe Audition 1.5, which is a virtual 'clone' of Syntrillium's 'Cool Edit Pro v2,' and can still be bought from a few online stores; you can use this program's 'Open audio from video' function to "rip" the audio information from the file and save it as a .wav file. I hope this information helps you to download favourite music and videos from YouTube and enjoy watching and listening to those oldies-but-goodies yet again.



*Men are like ... Newborn babies  
They're cute at first, but you get tired of  
picking up their crap.*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OCTOBER 14, 2010**

1. Meeting was called to order by President Larry French at 7:55 PM.
2. Roll Call: President Larry French, Vice President Lucille Wagner, Second Member at Large Gervase Bushe and Secretary Eileen Cameron.
3. Minutes of May 13, 2010 was reviewed. Lucille Wagner made a motion to accept the minutes and Gervase Bushe 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All approved.
4. OLD BUSINESS:
  - a. Larry will set up a club financial audit as soon as possible.
  - b. Tom Butler will talk with Eric Arnold about the web site.
5. President's report:
  - a. No nominating committee yet.
  - b. Riverside Bank now is TB Bank (Toronto Dominion).
  - c. The BOD decided to raffle off a copy of Windows 7 at \$5.00 per ticket.
  - c. All members will need to check their computer for compatibility before trying to update to Windows 7. Microsoft web site has a free program to check for the computer being compatible to the Windows 7.
6. New Business: None
7. Lucille Wagner made a motion we adjourn at 8:10 PM and Gervase Bushe 2<sup>nd</sup> it. All agreed.

Secretary, Eileen M. Cameron



PC Repair, software or hardware.



*Chuck Boring*

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# Windows 7 Tech Tips

By Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D., Regular Columnist,  
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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).*

Have you ever wanted or needed information about the hardware in your computer? Did you know that Windows 7 contains a command that can provide you with a list of your hardware components including memory information? It does and it is very easy to explore and to save to a file. There are other helpful little bits of information hidden in the recesses of Win7, so let's take some time to explore a few of them.

First let's check out the system information command. Go to Start and type "cmd" in the Search box (without the quotes), then press Enter. This will open a command window in which you can type "systeminfo", also without the quote marks. Press Enter again and you will get a detailed profile of your computer. This list will include the processor, BIOS version, operating system and updates, both installed and available memory and much more. In all, there are thirty-two categories of information provided by this command. You can scroll up and down through this information. Then, if you want to save this info to a disc file, type the command "systeminfo /FO CSV > systeminfo.csv". Again, without the quotes. This file will be saved in the directory shown at the beginning of the command line. So be sure you remember this location when you go to look for the file. A CSV file can be opened in a spreadsheet or a database program. Now you will have a ready reference for the components which make up your computer. It's not a bad idea to create this file and keep it for reference purposes.

Of course, if you are a frequent reader of Dr Herb's "Computer Buffet" you would have seen references to "Belarc Advisor". This free program gives you a profile of all the hardware and software on your machine. It

also highlights problem areas such as non-working applications. The software information can be quite extensive. The last time I ran this application on a Windows machine I had more than eight pages of information. Far more than I really wanted. The systeminfo command gives you a summary which is printable in one page.

There is another use for system information. If you type this "system information" command into the Start-Search box, it will bring up a list of applications before you finish typing. Select "System Information" from the list and click on it. You now have a double pane window with a tree of topics on the left and an information window on the right. The first item is a general summary of system information similar to the information we obtained in the command window. But there are other more detailed topics under the headings in the tree list. For example, hardware resources, components and software environment. Under components you will find a very important topic – problem devices. Hopefully, at this point there will be nothing listed when you highlight this topic. But if there are, it can lead you to solutions for some of your hardware problems. Under software environment you will find a topic called Startups. This lists the applications that are loaded into memory when your computer starts. Always something worth knowing.

Another interesting item under Software Environment is Windows Error Reporting. This gives you a detailed list of applications that have "misfired" or produced system hang-ups. This can be useful when you have problems with either Windows or third-party applications. All of the errors I found on my system were related to missing drivers that I had to install after installing Win7. Once that was completed the errors disappeared. Yes, I said that with crossed fingers – no use asking for bad luck, right?

If you haven't backed up your computer recently, then you should try the backup built into Win7. In previous versions of Windows the backup application provided by Microsoft was very slow and some versions were very limited in the media to which they would write the backup file. It was also useless when you changed your Windows version as the file formats in the

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## *Windows 7 Tech Tips ... Continued from Page 11*

backup file were not compatible with the newer version. In the Win7 help files there is information on how to restore a backup made with Vista to Win7. So at least the latest versions should be compatible.

These latest versions of the backup applications are much faster than previous versions. To try the backup applications, open the Control Panel and select System Security, then backup and restore. Here you have several options. You can do a complete image of your hard drive, just backup your data, or make a system repair disc. If you did not get a Windows installation disc when you purchased your computer, then the first thing you should do is make a system repair disc. All you need for this is a blank CD and then just follow the on-screen instructions. The next step would be to make a complete image file, preferably on an external drive. It's really not a good idea to put it on the same drive you are imaging even if it is a separate partition. Why? Because when the drive fails you won't be able to access the image file to restore anything to a new hard drive. Even if you do have a Windows installation disc the repair disc plus the image file are a better solution for restoring Windows and your files after a drive failure. The image file you create will be more current than the original installation disc when it comes to Windows updates. It will also include the installation of all the applications you added after you purchased the system or upgraded to Win7.

Once you have the repair disc and the image backup you can start doing data backups, or you can create new image files periodically. There is no need to make image files unless you have added applications or made substantial changes to your system. Windows file backup can be set to run automatically to save your data files. It will also add new folders and files to the backup list when you create them. I would also recommend that this be saved to an external drive.

Do you have a need for a system to remember user names and passwords? Win7 has a credential manager which can be used for storing user names and passwords in an encrypted file. This application can be found in the Control Panel under UserAccounts. If you can't find it, try searching within the Control Panel.

I frequently have a need to write down short notes or references to information I found on the Internet or in other sources. This is where Sticky Notes comes in quite handy. You can run this application by typing "stikynot" in the Start – Search box and clicking on the program that shows in the popdown menu. Alternatively, you can go to All Programs – Accessories and click on Sticky Notes. These can be placed anywhere on your desktop. You can also pin the application to the taskbar so it will be readily available. Just right click on the menu item or one of the sticky notes and select "pin to taskbar".

If you want to see the minute by minute performance of your computer, try typing "resource monitor" in the Start - Search box. The complete term will show up before you have completed typing and you can then click on the item. This brings up a window in which you can view the memory utilization, cpu utilization and other resources as you use your computer. It's a great way to see which applications are using the most memory.

By playing around with the Control Panel and other aspects of Windows 7, you can find many helpful built-in functions. You can also query the Help files. On my system the Help response is much quicker than it was in Vista and XP. I also found that many subjects are better explained and more detailed. So if you are stuck on something, try the Help application that's on the Start menu. The more you play with Win7, the more you will find that may be useful.

*Dr. Lewis is a former university and medical school professor of physiology. He has been working with personal computers for over thirty years, developing software and assembling systems.*



*A good man doesn't just happen.  
They have to be created by us women...  
First you have to get rid of all the stuff his mom  
did to him.  
And then you've got to get rid of that crap they  
pick up in beer commercials.*



# Internet Tech Advice

## Managing [and deleting] all those web browser toolbars

By Sandy Rand, President,  
Brookdale Computer Users Group, New Jersey  
June 2010 Issue, BUG Bytes  
[www.bcug.com](http://www.bcug.com)

Did you ever notice that your Internet Explorer has toolbars from such companies as Google, Yahoo, Ask.com, WebSearch, MSN, The Weather Channel, etc? The list of these toolbars goes on and on. When I work on my client's computers, sometimes I see five or six toolbars on the same browser window. The toolbars are actually taking up a third of the space. Most of the time, the client doesn't use them and has no idea how they got there. Once in a great while, I find someone who actually uses one of these bars.

The annoying part of it is that most of the time, they sneak on. These toolbars are mostly marketing. Somebody is getting paid to get you to use them. So, how do they get on your computer? The usual scenario is that you have downloaded a free program and done a Standard Install. The way to control what's happening is to do a Custom Install. With the Custom Install you step through several screens that give you choices. With free software, most of the time one of these screens will ask for permission to install a toolbar, change your home page or change your default browser. All you have to do is remove the checkmarks or choose no.

Sometimes when downloading programs, you'll get a choice between running the installation from the web site and saving the installation file to your hard drive. You should always choose to save the file and do the install from your PC. Otherwise, you may not have an opportunity to choose the Custom Install. Also, it's good to have the install file just in case you have to run the installation twice.

If you're actually using one of these toolbars, you should still get rid of the ones you don't use. There are two approaches. In Internet Explorer, just right click in the menu area. The menu that comes up will list all toolbars installed on your PC. The active ones will have a checkmark in the menu. Just click on the check marked item and the toolbar will close. Use this method if you might want to use the bar later.

If you're sure you'll never use it (which is most of the time), go to Control Panel, Add Remove Programs and uninstall the toolbar program. It's that simple.

There are quite a few free programs that are worthwhile and the software companies can't stay in business if they can't monetize it somehow. The toolbars are one way they do it. Still, for the future, you'll have better control if you always do Custom Installs.



## THIS AND THAT

By Elizabeth B. Wright, Contributor to the Computer Club of Oklahoma City newsletter  
www.ccokc.org  
wright599new (at) sbcglobal.net

*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).*

You never know what your program will remember when you close it.

For that reason, if the last file you used in the program happened to be on removable media which has been detached from the computer, you might face a real problem the next time you turn on your computer. So, before terminating whatever program is using a file located on the removable media, CLOSE the file located on that media. Next, still in the program you have been using, locate on your internal hard disk any file which that program will recognize. Open it. You don't have to work on the file, just open it and close it so that the last file used by the program was from the hard disk. You don't necessarily have to do any editing of the file, but you can re-save it as an added step to help the program remember where it found the last opened file, or you can just close it without re-saving it. On my C:\ drive I keep a text file created in MS Notepad titled freecell. You guessed it, that is where I save a list of the games I have failed to win (in other words, LOST). It isn't particularly important, so if it somehow becomes corrupted or deleted, it can always be replaced with new information. This file is easily accessed and opened, after which, for a little added security, I re-save it before closing it.

Hopefully this satisfies the computers lust for usable information. I have spent too much time thinking a program had taken a permanent dive before remembering that the last work I did before turning off the machine was on a file located on a floppy disk, a camera memory card (either in a card reader or in the camera itself), or from some other form of removable media no longer accessible by the computer. If a file can no longer be physically accessed, many programs go into an

endless loop trying to find it, causing your program to appear to be failing.

If you are lucky, using every trick you can think of, you might get the program to respond to a command to open a file on the hard disk. My all-time-favorite, Paint Shop Pro went to a "White Screen Of Death" recently every time I tried to use it. When my brain's memory kicked in I remembered the last thing I had done before closing PSP earlier was to download pictures from my camera's memory card. The memory card had been in a card reader and was removed to put it back in the camera AFTER I closed PSP. Downloading the camera photos was the last work I did before closing PSP. When next opening the program and getting that "WSOD" (see above), I found that even though various messages told me the program was not responding, the mouse would still operate and I was able to get "File/ Open/ etc. etc." to open a photo located on my hard drive. Problem solved, at least for that incident.

Of course, you can never count on anything happening exactly the same way twice. So maybe, instead of "Death" for PSP it should just be "White Screen Of Coma." But your program might just stop working with no change in the screen at all. Quoting one of our knowledgeable members, "it all depends" on how the programmers wrote it.



*A surgeon goes to return some books he borrowed from the library.  
The librarian quips after checking the books.  
"Sir your books are always returned with the last few pages missing in every single book."  
The surgeon replies, "I can't stop myself from removing an appendix when ever I see one."*



*Mr. Jones patted his daughter's hand fondly, and told her, "Your young man told me today he wanted you as a bride, and I gave my consent."*

*Oh, Papa," gushed the daughter, "it's going to be so hard leaving mother."*

*"I understand perfectly, my dear," said Mr. Jones. "You just take her with you."*

## Brevard Users Group Membership Application

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

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### 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 twice a month on the Saturdays before and 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

### Sponsorship 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](mailto:newsletter@bugclub.org)  
[treasurer@bugclub.org](mailto: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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**Committee Chairperson**

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