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

Shreveport – Bossier City
 Louisiana

Volume 2, No 2

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

February, 2000



Bernie Conradi, Jerry Bloomer & Jim Wertz working at the November ComputerSheaux

OUR NEXT 2 MEETINGS

7 p.m.

Thursday March 9, 2000

Thursday April 13, 2000

Marshall and Associates

819 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy

Shreveport, Louisiana

Meetings 2nd Thursday of

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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 East 70th-Shreveport**

Ark-La-Tex Computer Sheaux

Dates for 2000

February 19

May 13

September 2

November 11



www.computersheaux.org

ARE YOU READY?

FEBRUARY 19th IS THE BIG DAY!

Glenda Conradi

Spread the word! Tell your friends! Pass out flyers! Send emails! Shout it from the roof tops if you like, but please help us let people know that the next ComputerSheaux is February the 19th. I know there is a lot of interest because so many people have been asking when the next Sheaux will be.

We are hoping this ComputerSheaux will draw a big crowd and that we will be able to give an even larger donation to the Shriner's Hospital for Children then the \$4,000.00 we gave from the November Sheaux. They were going to make good use of the donation by purchasing lap top computers and programs to be used by the children who are confined to bed and cannot take advantage of the computer equipment in the school room.

I hope you will be able to set aside that day, or even a portion of it, and come give us a hand with the Sheaux. Your help is truly appreciated! Thank you in advance.

Glenda

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THE WINDOW

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Submit articles for newsletter, in RTF file format, by last day of month to *both* Glenda and Jay.

The opinions expressed in the articles in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editors or publisher. Mention of products by their trade name does not in any way constitute endorsement by the editors or publisher.

The Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group is a tax exempt, non-profit club.

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~Thank You~

We want to express our gratitude to:

Bill Marshall – Marshall & Assoc. for letting our group hold our monthly meetings in his conference room and for assisting us in obtaining our Non-Profit status.

Gary Galloway – ARK-LA-TEX Network Services for generously providing internet access for C-BWUG

IDT for the donation of a computer for the clubs' use.

ShreveNet, Inc. – For providing web space for our club.

Minden Bank & Trust on Youree Drive for providing us with a checking account at no charge.

Bryan Rawls for donating the C-BWUG banner.

~A QUICK

Try Running ScanDisk!

ScanDisk is a free Microsoft utility program that with regular use can detect small problems on your hard drive and fix them before they become BIG problems.

If you think your hard drive has

shrunk you might recover the lost space by simply running ScanDisk. It may also help correct shutdown problems on your computer.

It is highly recommended that you run ScanDisk at least once a month.

President's Page



Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group Meeting

January 13, 2000

We had a short business meeting to start the evening. The Treasurers report for the year-end was read and accepted. Several of our members attended the Microsoft Seminar that was conducted this past week. Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group was well represented. There is an article about it in the January newsletter. Our meeting this evening was a comparison benchmark chart showing the comparisons of the AMD and some Intel CPU's. It gave us a comparison on the speeds and Mark told us about the differences in prices. Mark is going to put his article in the newsletter so we can better see the differences. The rest of the meeting was a question and answer session with questions about the Windows 98SE disk, modem speed report problems, mail using Outlook and how to get to the settings using the Control Panel Network icon to change TCP/IP settings. Ed Waites suggested the Internet site www.oddparts.com as a place to get parts for computers. Our door prizes this evening were: Compton's Encyclopedia won by Kristie Sanders, a zip disk carrying case won by Mark Reeves and the grand door prize of a Windows 98 Resource Kit book won by Jack Burke. If you have something that you think the rest of the group would be interested in, please do not hesitate to submit an article about it. Send your newsletter articles to both Jay Graff and Glenda Conradi as an email attachment in rtf format to jay@jaygraff.com and glenda@conradi.com.

Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group

AOL Instant Messenger

Jay Graff



Here is a program that most of you probably already have. If you are currently on AOL, you probably use it and are familiar with its uses and functions. If you have a fairly recent version of Netscape, you probably have it but may not realize what a useful program it can be. I fall into the latter category. I always considered it an unwelcome addition to Netscape, but left it on my hard drive unused. I was using ICQ, which I thought was superior to AIM. ICQ still allows you to do many things that AIM does not. The reason I switched to, and started using AIM was purely accidental. I was using still another program to chat with my cousin who lives in England. One day we both started getting messages that we were not welcome when we attempted connecting. Eventually we were able to connect, but to me, the writing was on the wall. Since she was using AOL and I knew I had the program on my computer, we decided to give that a try and it worked.

The program itself is quite easy to install and use. The version I use is 3.57 beta and it has lots of features not found on the standard 3.0. Among them is the ability to establish a direct connection, and a new talk feature. When you establish a direct connection, you can drag files from Windows Explorer right into your chat box and it will deposit them there for the other person to see. I have only tried picture files, but it works like a charm. As for the talk, even though it says you are able to talk with your buddy, you both have to have a working sound card with a microphone. So far I have been unsuccessful in establishing a talk connection, but we are still

working on that.

You can send files to your buddy without being directly connected, but there may be version conflicts. When I first started chatting with my cousin, I had the later version of AIM, while she still had an older one. I kept getting the message that her version does not support file transfers. She was going to upgrade but apparently hers was able to upgrade automatically. The last time we got on together, she had the latest version.

The beauty of this program is that it works no matter if one has AOL and the other doesn't, or if neither does or both do. As I stated above, it is very easy to configure and use. The program, by default, starts when you boot up, but there is a way to make it not do that from the preference menu. I used to exit mine when I was finished chatting, but now I leave it on as long as I am online. And you can chat while you do other things, surf the net, write email. Whatever you do online is not affected by AIM.

When you first get on, your buddy list will be empty so you can either find buddies by a variety of searches, or if you know their name, you can just add it directly. Then when your buddy comes online, you will hear that door creaking open. From there, it's just a matter of clicking on their name and sending them an instant message (IM). My screen name is JayGraff92, so if you get this program, you can use that as your first buddy entry. If you don't have it, you can find it at www.aol.com/aim/home.html. A link to it is also on my homepage (www.jaygraff.com) on the download links page. Get the program and send me a message....happy chatting



Oh Me, Oh My, PC Goodbye

Wayne Ebert

So you have a new Personal Computer [PC]; what are you going to do with your "old" one? Use of the term "old" is used for the PC you had before you purchased your new one. What options are available to you? Understand that almost all PC hardware contains material classified as hazardous waste by the Environmental Protection Agency. For example, clock batteries, lead glass of monitors, gold, silver, and palladium in circuit boards and memory chips. The quantity already in the landfills is an embarrassment for the PC industry now and you are going to contribute! The current trend is that households purchased a new computer within the last two years. A four-year-old computer is disposed of in 4 out of 5 cases. Donate it to a charitable organization? Yea, right if you can find one that will take it. Most don't have the resources to handle your trash. Trash comes from the fact that 1 of 3 being donated don't work. There are some organizations that use some hardware for vocational purposes. Visit www.educateusa.com to see if there is one near you. There is a nonprofit organization [Share the Technology] that distributes computers to charities nation wide and can provide information on how to donate a PC in your area. Their web site is at www.libertynet.org/share for additional information. The suggested guidelines on what



AMD vs. Intel The Fight Heats Up!

Mark Reeves

Well AMD has finally one upped Intel, and Intel is not happy. AMD has been Intel's only real competitor, but they chose to concentrate on the mid to lower end of the market. With their new K-7 Athlon chip, that all changed.

I did a series of ZD Winbench and Winstone tests on various Intel and AMD processors with surprising results. The K6-2 & 3 tests were all done on an AOpen AX59PRO motherboard using the exact same ram, hard drive, and video card as was done on the P-II & P-III test except on a AOpen AX6BC board. As close to apples to apples as you can get, just as the same thing was done on the K7-550 (Gigabyte GA-71x) and P-III 550 (AOpen AX6BC), except with 128 megs of ram. On the charts you can see that the K6 processors out performed the Intel chips in everything except floating point math. The K-7 Athlon put AMD far out in front of Intel for the first time in that area as well as overall performance.

Some data about the architecture of these processors: The P-III uses a simplex 100Mhz bus for data transfer (except for the Coppermine chips with can go up to 133Mhz), while the Athlon K-7 uses a bi-

directional 100Mhz bus. Intel Coppermine is faster on bus transfers right? WRONG!!! Here is why, think of a standard 2-way radio, one person talks, the other listens until it is his time to talk back. Where the bi-directional Athlon is like your telephone, where both parties can talk at the same time. Another great thing about the new AMD chip is that it has 3 times the data-processing units in the chip as the P-III, meaning the chip can do more things at the same time without slowing down. Not to mention the extra L1 cache. One company has already come out with an overclocked K-7 at 1,000Mhz, (has a small refrigerator built in it to keep the processor at -36 degrees). And AMD is now planning a new series of chips to compete with Intel on their high-end market of multi-processor systems for the first time ever.

But it should be noted that both the new Intel Coppermine and AMD K-7 Athlon processors can be a little picky on memory, so as a suggestion, if you buy either, check with your vendor to make sure that your ram will work with your new setup.

As a personal note, having a K6/3-450, P-III 450, and a K-7 550; plus what I have tested, I have found the AMD's to be VERY stable processors with all the software I run in my office (including my CAD type apps). AMD has produced an excellent processor and Intel will have to work long and hard to compete with the Athlon.

(Continued from page 3)

to do with your old PC are sell at two years. Donate at three. Pay disposal costs at four. Rather dismal aren't they. The bright side is that you can continue to use the old system if it is accomplishing what you want it to do. Until a hardware component fails, that is, as the next Y2K problem is not to arrive until 2029. If you are in a PC disposal situation, consider donating to the quarterly ComputerSheaux. Donations are sold as is with the profits going to the Shriner's Hospital. Go to <http://www.computersheaux.org> for the when, where, and who to contact details. You will be glad you did.

~Web Sites~

WinFiles.com

<http://www.winfiles.com>

(technical help for people who use Microsoft Windows 95, 98, NT, and CE.)

Information Please Almanac

<http://www.infoplease.com>

(almanac, encyclopedia and dictionary, plus special sports weather and entertainment sections)

Ask Jeeves

<http://www.askjeeves.com>

(Type in a question on almost any subject. A really neat website)

MISTEAKS

Some Of you may have found some mistakes in this Newsletter. There is a reason for this; Some people are always looking for them and in an effort to please every one, we included some.