THE WINDOW

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CADDO-BOSSIER WINDOWS USER GROUP

Shreveport – Bossier City
Louisiana

Volume 2, No 1   Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter   January, 2000

Wayne Ebert, Richard Snapp & Jack Barnett at the Windows 2000 Seminar

WINDOWS 2000 SEMINAR
Jay Graff

On Tuesday January 11, Microsoft presented a Windows 2000 Seminar at LSUS. Representing Microsoft was Lisa Faia, an Educational Coordinator out of Dallas and Doug Mazina from Microsoft's Tech Net Division in Austin.

Doug made the presentation and started off explaining the differences between the various Platforms of Windows 2000. He stressed that Windows 2000 will not be an update of Windows 9X, but rather a newer updated version of Windows NT.

Briefly, he gave an overview of each.

Windows 2000 Professional is the low end of the spectrum and of the three, would be the one geared toward the home user. It does not have any of the high power functions that the others do and could conceivably be installed on many home machines.
One very interesting comment he made should be of interest to anyone that is considering upgrading. At the present time, the success rate of up-

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OUR NEXT 2 MEETINGS
7 p.m.
Thursday January 13, 2000
Thursday February 10, 2000
Marshall and Associates
819 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy
Shreveport, Louisiana
Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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C-B WUG CLUB ELECTIONS

Officers elected at the December 10 meeting were: President -Bernie Conradi, Vice President-Wayne Ebert, Secretary-Glenda Conradi and Treasurer– Kathleen Mangum. Mark Reeves was re-elected as Program Director .

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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.

Club Officers

President   Bernie Conradi
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Secretary   Glenda Conradi
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Treasurer   Kathleen Mangum
        (*misfit@softdisk.com*)

Program Director Mark Reeves
        (*markcr@msn.com*)

~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 TIP~

Boot To Dos in Windows 98

Booting to the DOS prompt in Windows 98 is done differently than in Windows 95.

If you have Windows 98 on your PC and want to boot to the DOS prompt hold down the Ctrl key while your PC is booting. This should take you directly to the boot menu, which includes Safe Mode and "Boot to command prompt only"

President's Page

Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group Meeting
December 9, l999

Our visitor this evening was Frank Page. He also joined our group this evening. Our business this evening consisted of the election of officers for the Year 2000. Ed Waites made the nomination of the present officers and Larry Casey seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations and a motion was made to accept the officer's nomination by acclamation. Motion carried by membership. The Officers for the Year 2000 are Bernie Conradi, President, Wayne Ebert, Vice President, Glenda Conradi, Secretary, Kathleen Mangum, Treasurer and Mark Reeves, Program Chairman. Channel 12 TV Station visited our group this evening, interviewed Mark, and took video of our meeting. This video was on the 10PM news this evening. Gary Galloway announced that the Ark-La-Tex ComputerFest was asking for nominations for Vice President of that group. Anyone interested be sure and let him know of your interests. Carol White told us that she finally got the program CallWave to work on her computer. Now she will know if a call comes in on her line while she is on the Internet. We had questions and problems with a sound card and how to block incoming email messages using Outlook.
Gary Galloway and David Huckabee brief us on cable modems. We also had a discussion on obtaining the Microsoft Year 2000 Resource Disk. Be sure to get the November 1999 edition. This disk has all the updates for Office 95 & 97 and Works 4.5 and Windows 95 and 98. It also has a program to check your Microsoft Programs for year 2000 compliance. 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

I'll Do It, I'll do it..!.!.
by Wayne D. Ebert

How many times have you said, "I'll do it!"? I recall seeing a totally frustrated parent with that look indicating I had pushed my luck too far suddenly calm down and say in a very level voice; "Spell Procrastinate." Slightly confused, I hesitated, then was handed a dictionary without another word being spoken. A very clear memory of this lesson returned when my neighbor came over to ask me what operating system I had installed on my computer. Her disappointment was apparent when my answer was not what she wanted to hear. After a moment she told me her computer had crashed and she could not find a boot disk. Her frown turned to a smile when I told her that if she knew the operating system on her computer I could make a boot disk for her. She ask "How can you do that?". Some very thoughtful persons have made an outstanding effort to save us procrastinators. There is a web site from which you can download a huge variety of critical software for a large number of systems. When you get your computer up and running, put ***http://www.bootdisk.com*** on your Internet Browser's favorites list, just in case my computer crashes. This site has boot disks for DOS 5.0 [without CD Support] through Windows 98 Second Edition with or without IDE or SCSI support for CD-ROM drives. There are also, boot disks for NT 3.1 and 4.0, DR DOS 7.03, OS/2 WARP 3.0, PC DOS 7.0, Redhat Linux 2.0+, and SuSE Linux 6.0. There are antiviruses, utilities, tweaks, patches, Y2KUPDATES, Drivers, jumper settings for harddrives, usenet posts, drivers-setups-patches and support pages for systems and motherboards. If you can find the FCCID number on the first screen at bootup there is a lookup that takes you to the appropriate site. If you need instructions, there are some of those as well.

Y2K-Did you really survive?
by Mark Reeves

Most people who had no problems on Jan. 1 with their systems gave a sigh of relief thinking their computers were OK. This may not be the case. Especially since Y2K is a 3 edged sword with many sub-facets that are hidden in plain sight.

Some computers will not retain the 2000 date once the power is off. Some will not change the leap-years properly. Plus there is a host of other hardware related problems that can occur. A few 486s and most Pentium class systems that have a problem, can be easily fixed by just downloading and installing a bios upgrade. Others would require one of the many plug-in card solutions for under $50. Ontrack Software has a FREE download off their web-site to check for hardware errors.

Then there is the operating systems, Windows NT and the Win9x families, both require patches to be fully Y2K compliant. Someone, last year, constructed a good fake e-mail that appeared to be from Microsoft; stating that Win95 was Y2K as is. This is FALSE, all Win9x operating systems require patches to be Y2K compliant. Microsoft has a Y2K web-site with the information and also provide a free CD with all their Y2K consumer patches included.

Lastly, there are the applications, For Microsoft MS Office products, Office 95 and Office 97, require one or 2 patches to be compliant. Older Office 4.x is compliant as long as 4 digit years are used (except for ACCESS 1.x & 2.x which are not). Works 4.x may be upgraded to 4.5a to attain compliance (plus it increases its speed by 2x or more!), earlier versions are not mainly in the spreadsheet/database functions. Again patches for these

may be obtain for free from Microsoft by calling 1-800-msft-y2k. I have ordered some extra CDs for the club, which I hope to have by our next meeting.

Corel's Word Perfect products also have patches intended to fix Y2K problems in all versions including their Office 2000 product.

Intuit's popular Quick Books version 6 and above is supposed to be Y2K compliant. Their Quicken program is suppose to require version Quicken99 or above to be compliant.

The best thing about most of the software is that most of the companies, still in business, maintain web sites containing the information on what is or what is not Y2K compliant. In most cases these same sites contain links to the software patches needed to attain compliance by just downloading them for free.

As such most Y2K problems can be addressed and fixed for little or no cost and/or very little effort. Many reputable local companies are offering Y2K checks and fixes. The most serious potential problems are that the computer owners do not realize that all three areas (hardware, operating system, and applications) must be addressed, most just look at one, possibly two areas to check and fix, not all three.

The best defense for Y2K, even if the system has been upgraded, is a complete and total data backup before each stage of the various Y2K bugs; the next being the end of February.. Then if a program or system does have a problem and damages data, it can be restored easily and safely after the problem has been corrected.

*Data on Microsoft compliance supplied by Microsoft and their TechNet Y2000 update CD and the Microsoft Y2K web site.**Data on Corel/Word Perfect compliance supplied by Corel off their Y2K web site.

(Continued from page 1)

grading from Win 9X to Windows 2000 is only in the 80% range. This is not a very good rate and means that if you should decide to upgrade, be prepared for a failure somewhere along the way. On the other hand, if you had NT, the success rate is in the high 90's.

Windows 2000 Server is a very powerful OS that allows you to do many functions. It is geared toward small businesses and network administrators that do not have to oversee lots of clients. You will have to judge for yourself what is considered lots. He stated that for the majority of clients, this should suffice. But if you want to bring out the big guns, see the next item.

Windows 2000 Advanced Server . In my opinion, this is what AT&T would probably buy. It is full featured, but also takes more to install and operate. There are many differences between the two. One example is that on Windows 2000 Server, you can support up to four CPU's on one machine, while in the Advanced Server, you can support up to eight. The list goes on and on. The bottom line is that, like most Microsoft products, if you are willing to pay the extra, each version has more functions than the previous one.

After the initial overview, Doug touched on each version and gave a brief demo of some of the features.

Overall, it was a very good presentation. Doug seemed to have a good working knowledge of the product and he demonstrated it quite effectively. After a couple of breaks, it

became obvious that he would not finish in time unless he cut some of it short. My impression was that it was either originally intended to be an all day briefing, or it should have been. But that did not take away from the seminar.

By the way, if you are interested in Windows 2000, the scheduled release date is early February. All the information I got yesterday only served to reinforce what we have heard all along; that unless you own a business, Windows 2000 is probably not right for us common folks. And given that failure rate makes me want to upgrade even less.

Our local groups were well represented. Among those attending were Mark Reeves, Richard Snap, Wayne Ebert and myself. Richard won a Windows 2000 Resource Book and indicated that he would donate it to the CBWUG Library so all of our members might have the opportunity to check it out.
My take is that I think I will stick with what I have for the time being.

The next ComputerSheaux will be February 19, 2000. All of the dates for the year 2000 are listed on the Web page. The Web address is www.computersheaux.org.

Our donation to the Shriner's Hospital in Shreveport came to a total

of $4,000.00 from the November 13, 1999 Sheaux. They plan to purchase two laptop computers and computer games to be used by the children who are confined to bed and unable to go to the classroom.

Again, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you who so generously volunteered your time to help make the November Sheaux a success. Please mark your calendar for February 19.

Thank you!

Glenda Conradi
Secretary/Graphic Artist
Ark-La-Tex ComputerFest, Inc.

~Web Sites~

Windows Update
http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com

(the Windows Update will check your system and let you know what upgrades you need to install.)

Acronym Finder
http://www.mtnds.com/af/

(Look up acronyms and abbreviations)

Zip2 Searcher
http://www.zip2.com

(Searches for business listings by category or by name & particular geographical area.)

MISTEAKS

Some 0f 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.