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**CADDO-BOSSIER
 WINDOWS
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City
 Louisiana

Volume 2, No 3

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

March, 2000



Kathleen Mangum & Ed Waites talk to prospective new member Ron Hixson at C-B WUG table.

First ComputerSheaux in 2000 One of the Best Ever!

Our area computer club members did it again! So many of you came to the February ComputerSheaux to help put on an extremely smooth running Sheaux. Thank you so very much!

We had some new vendors and many of the “regular” vendors that you can count on seeing every time you come to the Sheaux. It seemed to me that there was a much wider variety of items to choose from. At the end of the day almost all of the vendors had reserved tables for the next Sheaux in May. Several said they would need more space next time. Speaking of using space...the SWEPCO tables were loaded down with the used “as is” computer

equipment they donated. We took in \$1,277.50 just from sales at the SWEPCO donations table and I heard there were some really great buys there.

There were 1524 people who paid to get in, the first time I ever remember welcoming guest number 1000 and 1500, too. Our total deposit from the February Sheaux was \$7,253.00. We can certainly be proud of that. We will decide at the ComputerFest BoD meeting how much we will be able to donate to the Shriner’s Hospital for Children in Shreveport this time.

The last donation, from the Novem-

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OUR NEXT 2 MEETINGS

7 p.m.

Thursday April 13, 2000

Thursday May 11, 2000

Marshall and Associates

819 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy

Shreveport, Louisiana

Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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 East 70th-Shreveport**

Ark-La-Tex Computer Sheaux

Dates for 2000

February 19

May 13

September 9

November 11



www.computersheaux.org

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THE WINDOW

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Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group

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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 TIP~

Update Windows 98!

Have you updated your Windows98 and IE5? If not you need to check out Microsoft's Windows update site.

There have been so many security updates and patches since the start of the year it is easy to miss. And every time

Microsoft finds something new, they fix it and post it ASAP. And if you check regularly, it takes very little time to update, unlike if you wait and download it all at once.

President's Page



Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group Meeting

February 10, 2000

Mr. Stencil Alexander was a visitor this evening and then joined the group. Welcome Alex. Announcements were made including the ComputerSheaux, which will be held on February 19, 2000, at the Bossier City Civic Center. The entire evening was devoted to an open question and answer session. The questions ranged from the different types of computer mice to how to reinstall the real mode drivers, problems running scan disk and how to disable programs that are running in the background, which constantly restart the scan disk program. We also had questions about the secure sites for using your credit card on line and explanation of using the 128-bit encryption version of the particular browser that you have. Mark demonstrated how to tell which version you have. Mark also made some suggestions on the best way to approach proper file management on your computer, like grouping your files in one directory or on one hard drive.

Our door prize winners for the evening were: Pat Sayers (Card Player Paradise) and Ed Waites (Canon Photo Program) Congratulations! If anyone has a suggestion for a program for the evening please contact Mark Reeves or myself so we can plan for the program. Suggestions are welcome! We want to provide an interesting and informative program.

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.

Do You Know What is Installed in Your Computer?

Wayne Ebert



Sure you know what is installed on/in your computer but does

Windows 98? Granted you sometimes "talk" to or at your computer. In theory, your computer will do everything you "tell" it to do even if you really don't want it to. When you press the Enter key, I call it the "Do It" key, you are telling your computer to accomplish the commands just entered. However, as the number of patches that have to be installed continues to increase so does your frustration level. I mention this because the information I am about to provide you is free but is not perfect. For example, the Windows System Device manager does not have a single yellow caution flag, yet the report generated says there is a problem with the scanner. Save this report to disk as it prints out at about 18 pages, if required, run it again. To generate this report, click Start, and in the Run box enter HWINFO /UI and click OK or press the Do It key [Enter key]. Note that there is a space between HWINFO and the /UI switch. The next screen you see is the Hardware Information Utility for Windows. Notice that as you drill down [new term drill up or down means to scroll] the lines are colored. File attributes are in color, with registry

keys in Green, configuration manager information in Black, warnings in Blue, and Errors in Red. If you don't see any RED or BLUE lines Windows 98 "thinks" everything is trouble free. If you detect a conflict or find a solution to a problem, please let me know at cbwug@ark-la-tex.com. This report has a huge amount of information on your computer's system that may answer the question you wanted to ask or overwhelm you with details that you don't care about, at the moment.

eCleaner

John "Jack" F. Burke

Have you ever been annoyed when you receive a message or joke from a friend which is barely legible? Many such messages arrive in my email with a single word on a line and multiple Unix reply marks (">") throughout the document. This makes the information difficult to read and a very unpleasant experience.

Now there is a solution thanks to a Stanford professor, Mr. Steve Chin. eCleaner, formerly known as The Cleaner, is a free text editor which can be used in place of Notepad. But, the real benefit of this program is a function to remove the formatting marks from email messages and HTML documents. It also removes unwanted line breaks in sentences and paragraphs.

It is very easy to use and -best of all- it's freeware. Simply copy and

paste the document into eCleaner. Then hit the yellow smiley-face and, presto, the email is clean and legible. I use it not only to read the mail but also to clean up mail before forwarding it to other friends; I can only trust that they enjoy receiving 'clean mail.' This program is not a solution for every problem with irregular mail and sometimes it bunches the entire text together. However, it greatly improves the quality of most of the problematic mail which arrives in your Inbox.

eCleaner, version 2.01, receives a four star rating from ZDNet. The file is only 454KB and I have it placed on my Quick Launch toolbar for easy access.

I encourage you to try this program--I have been very pleased with it. It can be found at this ZDNet URL: <http://hotfiles.zdnet.com/cgi-bin/texis/swlib/hotfiles/info.html?fcode=000XUH>

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ber Sheaux, made it possible for the hospital to purchase two laptop computers for the children who can not leave their beds to use the computers in the class room. The teacher would like to have at least two more laptops to use with these children.

Again, Thanks for your help. The next Sheaux will be May 13.

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

Picking out a Printer

Mark Reeves



Over the last few years we have all looked at what printer to buy, but over the last three years I had some

things happen that forever will have me researching before I buy my next printer.

For several years I sold and used Panasonic printers with great success, at least until I had to start replacing fusers and developers in their laser printers. Then I found out it was cheaper to replace them with new low end HP laser printers, plus there is no one who can completely service Panasonic in our area. Canon color ink jets have the same problem, the popular BJC-600 series of printers was supposed to have easily replaceable print heads just under \$50. They are not, they are over a hundred, again cheaper to buy a new printer; plus no local service. Kodak has excellent color printers, but as soon as they bring out a new model, quit supporting the old ones entirely. Canon feels you should buy a new printer every 18-24 months or less. Panasonic just does not seem to care.

The point being that you should get all the facts before making your choice on a new printer, if an inexpensive one, almost any will do. If an expensive laser or ink-jet, look closely at what you might buy. On color printers, you should consider a multiple cartridge type if you plan on much color printing, these are normally much cheaper in the long run. Also, if you plan to refill the ink cartridges, check on how easy it is to do so and the cost. For laser printers, check on the costs for toner, drum, fuser, and developer replacements as well as how many prints

you can expect to get out of each. This will tell you your cost of ownership on each. Lastly talk to someone who owns a similar printer and any problems they may have had with it.

Making an informed decision is always the best way, and the best advise is to go with a company that supports their products longer than their warranty.

Do You Know Your Bios?

Jay Graff

QUICK!!! Do you know what your BIOS string is? That's the 20 or 30 digit number that appears on the screen as soon as you boot up. Back in the days of the Y2K scare, we were all supposed to have checked it so we knew if we were Y2K compliant, but if you're like me, you quickly forgot about it.

Recently I had an occasion to have to know mine, so I could check on an update for my bios chip. I could have done it the old way, hit pause at exactly the right moment, then write it down to a piece of paper.

But the company that I was going to buy the chip from had this neat little program that does exactly that. It is called Bios Wizard and when you run it, it gives you information about your bios that you can then print out. There are two versions to the program, one DOS and one for Windows. If you use the DOS version, it makes a text file that can be printed out. The windows version is much nicer and gives you all kind of information, most of which is meaningless to you, but means something to somebody. It can be found at <http://www.unicore.com> One other program I would like to briefly discuss is called CT Bios and it does the same as Bios Wizard, but gives you a little more info such as your chipset and who it was made by,

plus some other info that again won't mean much to you, but if you need to call someone, it would sure be handy to have that info ready. CT Bios can be found at: <http://www.ping.be/bios/numbers.shtml> Check these programs out for yourself. As usual, if you forget these URL's, you can go to my homepage at: www.jaygraff.com and look on the download link page.

You may never have a need for these, but isn't it nice to know that if you ever do, all you have to do is run the program and forget about the pause key tag you had to do before.

~Web Sites~

Mailing List Directory

<http://www.liszt.com>

(an extensive mailing list directory for all sorts of topics and it is free)

Search Engine

<http://www.mamma.com>

(Described as "the mother of all search engines" and the largest independently owned Meta Search Engine on the Internet - click on "about mamma" to see how it works)

Stimulus...Your minds favorite Web Site

<http://www.stimulus.com>

(the education area is dedicated to teaching everyone about the internet)

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.