WE DO WINDOWS
THE WINDOW
COME DO WINDOWS WITH US

www.shreve.net/~cbwug

CADDO-BOSSIER WINDOWS USER GROUP

Shreveport – Bossier City
Louisiana

Volume 5, No 4   Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter   April, 2003

Bernie Conradi holds the jar while guest speaker Charlie Maranto draws a winning name

March Meeting
By Glenda Conradi

Our group was very privileged to have Charlie Maranto, technical support manager with ShreveNet, present the March program. There have been a lot of questions and complaints about spam and Charlie came well prepared to answer those questions and provide some valuable information on how to minimize the amount of spam that often deluges our computer mixed in with the emails that we really want to receive. He began the program by informing us that the technical term for spam is "unsolicited bulk email" or "unsolicited commercial email" and the term spam actually comes from a Monty Python skit.

One important point brought up was that if you respond in any way to spam or buy anything that a spam message may offer you are just encouraging them and opening yourself up for even more spam. We were told that it is best just to totally ignore any and all spam messages and hit the delete key when you get one.

**Next Computer Sheaux will be Saturday, May 10, 2003
8 a.m. till 4 p.m. at Bossier Civic Center
Please mark your calendar now and plan to be there!**

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East 70th-Shreveport

Ark-La-Tex Computer Sheaux

~Sheaux Dates~

~2003 Dates~
February 8, 2003
May 10, 2003
August 9, 2003
November 8, 2003

www.computersheaux.org

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THE WINDOW
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Submit articles for newsletter, in RTF file format, by last day of month to 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.

Membership Dues.
Full: $12.00 a year
Spouse: $6.00 a year
Student: $6.00 a year

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~Thank You~

Podnuh's Bar-B-Q 1146 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy for letting our group hold our monthly meetings in a private dining room in their restaurant

ShreveNet, Inc. for generously providing an email account and internet access for C-BWUG and for providing web space for our club.

BancorpSouth on Youree Drive for providing us with a checking account at no charge.

~A QUICK TIP~

The Difference in CMOS and BIOS

CMOS ("sea moss") is a computer chip that stores the settings of a computer system. The word "CMOS" is an acronym which stands for Complementary Metal-Oxide Semiconductor.

If the DEL key was pressed when a message stating "Press DEL to enter Setup", or something similar appears when a computer is powered on, something called a CMOS utility will appear on the screen. Various hardware settings can be manipulated on this screen, such as the geometry of a hard drive, which device to boot first, etc.

BIOS stands for Basic Input Output System. The BIOS holds very basic computer instructions that are required to boot a computer into an operating system such as DOS or Windows. The BIOS is basically a mini pre-operating system.

Since the CMOS and BIOS are so tightly intertwined, they are commonly referred to as one in the same.

Now you know the difference.

President's Page

Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group March Meeting

The meeting started with the introduction of Bill Greene and Dwain D'souza as our guests this evening. We had the usual announcements and treasures report and then Glenda introduced Charlie Maranto of ShreveNet who presented a very interesting program about "spam" and what we can and can not do about it, like using the program "Mail Washer" and "Spam Cop" to help eliminate some of our spam.   Charlie also answered numerous questions about the use of the internet. He also told us about ShreveNet's programs called Spam Trapper and Spam Guard. I would like to thank Charlie for a very informative program. We had our usual question and answer session after Charlie's spam program. There were questions about how to put a shortcut in the Send To folder and what to do with the remaining items in a directory of a program that has been uninstalled. The door prizes this evening were Sims Unleashed add on package won by David Huckabee; a can of air for cleaning your computer won by Joe Blase; a T-shirt won by Wayne Ebert; and McAfee Firewall won by George Craddock.

I would like to encourage the members to send me an email to bernie@conradi.com and give us some ideas as for future programs. 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 Glenda Conradi and Jay Graff.
Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group

Capturing Video at Home

By Mark Reeves

With all the computer power now available you would think that capturing video and editing it would be easy. I did and boy was I wrong. There are so many products that advertise easy solutions, but after you have spent your money, you find that it is not so easy or that it does not work at all like they advertise.

For capturing, forget the affordable DAZZLE Fusion ($80). It does not even capture full screen, it indicates that it does, but in small print it says it captures in 320x200, which full screen is either 640x400 or the most common standard of 720x480; which if you do not know the standards, you could not possibly know. Support, there are people in the Dazzle support forums crying the blues about being ignored, my tech support request took 2 1/2 weeks to even be answered the first time, and the reply another 2 weeks. Their editing software is VERY soft, giving poor quality and extremely resource intensive. So all around I would suggest trying something else.

The ATI All-in-Wonders on the other hand was a VAST improvement. I purchased a Radeon 7500 ($140 with remote!) and using their software to capture was a JOY! You can capture using s-video, composite (RCA jacks), or RF right off the air. In fact their software even includes a digital VCR for on air scheduled recording on any channel it can pick up on its tuner, to be played back later. Now the card does lack some needed documentation, such as you need to hook up the RCA audio even if you are using s-video. If you want high quality recordings you must select the DVD setting, but do not use the highest one or it will not encode right for a home DVD recorder. With the only software that I have found to be usable, you do need to do some other things. The first is that if you want chapters on you DVDs, you need to

record 10-20 minutes of video at a time, then trim as little off of it as you can with the Ulead Video Studio software that comes with the card. You need a capture drive with at least 20 gigs of free defragmented space, preferably on another physical drive on another data channel, with the temp and swap files on the other data channel. It needs to be at least an ATA100 ide drive or U80 SCSI-2 drive. And for processor, I have found that you need at least either an Athon 1800+ XP or 1.8 gig P4 processor motherboard with at least 256 megs of ram on a Win9x system or at least 384 megs or ram on a Win2000 or XP system. While making high quality recording, have nothing open other than systray, explorer, and the ATI program. Disable the task scheduler as well or face the probability that you will

Change Program Displayed

In XP, by default, the programs that are displayed in the top left column of the Start menu are Internet Explorer and Outlook Express.

If you would prefer to display your favorite programs in this spot you can.

Right-click on an empty place in the Start menu's left column.

Select Properties /Start Menu/ Customize.

At the bottom, deselect the program you no longer want displayed in the "Show on the Start menu" dialog.

Using Windows Explorer or My Computer, navigate to the program you want to put in this spot.

Right-click the program and select "Pin to Start menu."

To rename the new shortcut, right-click it and select Rename.

Keep in mind that you cannot pin individual files just programs.

Door Prizes Winners for March 2003 Meeting

David Huckabee, Joe Blase, George Craddock & Wayne Ebert

The March door prizes were Sims Unleashed software won by David Huckabee, canned air won by Joe Blase, Firewall software won by George Craddock and a Men in Black t-shirt won by Wayne Ebert.

All Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group club members in attendance are eligible to win door prizes at the monthly meetings.

Resource Conflicts

By Wayne Ebert

A resource is any part of your computer system - that includes internal and external components. During the installation a driver is installed. A driver is a software application that acts like a translator to allow the device and Windows [the operating system] to communicate with each other. Each installed device needs a resource to run. When the driver is installed, Windows scans the system to find a free resource to assign to the new device. Four types of resources are checked, IRQ, DMA, I/O port, and Memory address ranges.

Think of an Interrupt ReQuest [IRQ] as a call from the device to the systems Central Processing Unit [CPU]. The CPU can only do one thing at a time, so the device must interrupt the CPU with its request. Most of the device conflicts are caused by IRQ conflicts. There are 16 IRQs; five are used for the system itself [0, 1, 2, 8, and 11]. Three or four are used by common devices like the keyboard, or mouse. The remaining are used by a camera, a scanner, or other devices you add.

The pathways to move data to and from a device without passing it through the CPU are Direct Memory Access [DMA] channels. DMA channels seldom cause resource conflicts. Input/Output [I/O] ports or addresses are the resources you system assigns for input or output of a specific device. When you press the J key, for example, the system receives a bit of data from the address assigned to the J key and knows to display a J on your monitor. Memory address ranges are used mostly by firmware [software embedded on the device itself] on motherboard or cards. When two devices compete for the same address, both are assigned the same address during installation, the system hangs, slows down, or starts sending garbled output.

Some devices can share resources if both are not operating at the same time. Communications ports, for example, can share an IRQ until both devices try to use the IRQ at the same time. If a modem is sharing a port and the other device tries to use the port the conflict may shut down your system. Neither the installation programs, or Windows itself, provides an automatic warning of a conflict. To find resource conflicts, the main source of information about system hardware is the Windows Device Manager. Hardware is placed in categories, each showing all the hardware installed in that category. Common categories are: Disk Drives, Display Adapters, Keyboards, Modems, Monitors, Network Adapters, Processors, Sound, Video and Game Controllers. System Resources provides data on the devices on your motherboard.

To open Device Manager you may press and hold down the Window logo key and then press the PAUSE/BREAK key. Clicking on Start-RUN and enter DEVMGMT. MSC in the command prompt or simply Right Click the My Computer icon, click Properties, then click the Device Manager tab are other way to open Device Manager for Win 98 or ME. With XP, click Start, Programs, Administrative Tools, Computer Management, and Device Manager. A red X over the device generally indicates a problem with the device driver. You will have to remove the device and run the installation program again. A yellow exclamation point [!] next to a device means a previously installed device is missing or there is a shared resource that is not working.

drop frames during the capture, which the software shows as a percentage of total dropped frames. Also make sure that your mouse does not go over buttons or menu items that cause a dialogue box to show up, since this will drop frames as well. And now ATI has come out with the 9700 Pro version ($400), which has an MPEG-2 encoder included on the card, instead of using software and processor resources on your system.

~Web Sites~

Freeware
www.moonsoftware.com/freeware.asp
(this site offers free downloads)

Upgrading
www.upgradingandrepairingpcs.com/videos/index.asp
(Information on upgrading and books you can buy on the subject)

History of Microsoft Windows
www.neowin.net/articles.php?action=more&id=53&perpage=1&pagenum=1
(*A fun place to view screenshots and information giving a timeline and history of Microsoft Windows)*

FMS Computer Training
www.barrett.net/cleanup.htm
(Instructions on routine clean up tasks for your computer)

Bob Cerelli's Windows Page
www.onecomputerguy.com
(Windows updates and tips page)

DID YOU KNOW?

If you have a phone number without a name and want to know who it belongs to you can go to google.com, type in the area code and number, click Google search and see the name & address as long as it is listed in the phone book. You can also click on the map option to see the location of the address.