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**CADDO-BOSSIER  
 WINDOWS  
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City  
 Louisiana

Volume 2, No 8

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

August, 2000



**Finding It On The Web!**

*Glenda Conradi*

In July our guest speakers were the very knowledgeable Shawn Christy and Jamie Prince from ShreveNet.

Jamie provided a wealth of information on search engines and how to use them. She explained the different methods that various search engines use to go about their searches for sites on the Web. Jamie noted that AltaVista and Google's search engines are more specific than Yahoo's. She distributed a handout that described the difference between a Web Directory such as Yahoo and a Search engine like AltaVista and how they work. It also included some Web addresses for various directories, portals and search engines

and information and tips on how to use the search engines to find what you are looking for. Our members had Jamie searching for some very interesting sites that covered all sorts of information and subjects.

Shawn closed out the evening with an overview on DSL, the super fast web access service soon to be in our area. The down side is that not everyone will be able to receive the service. You must be within a certain distance of a central phone office to qualify. ShreveNet is offering some great discounts to the first 100 people to take the service. Go to [www.shreve.net](http://www.shreve.net) to get on their list and to be checked to see if you qualify.

**\*MEETINGS\***

Thursday August 10, 2000  
 Thursday September 14, 2000  
 Thursday October 12, 2000  
**Marshall and Associates**  
 819 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy  
 Shreveport, Louisiana

*Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month  
 7 p.m.*



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Newsletter reproduction  
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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](http://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 *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

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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.

**Regions Bank** on Youree Drive for providing us with a checking account at no charge.

**Bryan Rawls** for donating the C-BWUG banner.

## ~A QUICK TIP~

## Quick Access to Windows Explorer

To quickly get to Windows Explorer, when you are working in another program, just hold down the Windows key on the keyboard and press E.

Don't have a Windows Key on your keyboard? Well, like many of the other functions you perform in Windows there is another way to get back to

Windows Explorer quickly and easily, this method uses the mouse. Right click on the Start button on the lower left corner of the screen and then left click on Explore in the menu box that pops up. When you close Windows Explorer you should go back to the program you were using.

## President's Page



## Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group Meeting

July 13, 2000

We had Lee & George Elwinger as our visitors this evening. We welcome them to visit us again soon. Kathleen Mangum gave the Treasurers report and we then had a short question and answer session. David Huckabee announced that the release date for Windows 98 Me will be September 14, 2000. He also told us about Service Pack 1 for Office 2000. Mark Reeves informed us of a couple of free programs that are spyware. These programs log and keep track of your usage of the Internet. He recommended opting out of these kinds of programs if you have one. Ed Waites told us about a Trojan Virus he got and how he got rid of it.

We had two guests this evening from ShreveNet to give the presentation. They were Jamie Prince and Shawn Christy. They provided us with some very useful information on how to do searches on the Internet and informed us of the upcoming DSL service to be provided by ShreveNet. Our door prizes this evening were a Windows 98 book won by Glenda Conradi, a surge protector won by Darryl Strange and a set of speakers won by Keith O'Kelly. Congratulations to the winners.

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](mailto:jay@jaygraff.com) and [glenda@conradi.com](mailto:glenda@conradi.com).

Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group

## Download Accelerator Plus

*Jack Burke*

I have been using this download accelerator program for three months and I thought that you might enjoy hearing about it. In a nutshell, it is freeware and accelerates download files from the Internet. The acceleration is done by using more than one connection for the same file. It also has a pause and resume feature in case you need to stop the download or you get cut off from your server--Heaven forbid!

I show an increase in speed of about 100% on my downloads and have shown no decrease in quality or any other problems--there have been reports of increases up to 300%. I have gone from an average download speed of 3.5 kps to approximately 7 kps using a standard Dial-up connection. This increase in speed is substantial especially when downloading a large file like Internet Explorer or Netscape, which can take hours. Additionally, it supports both of these browsers but does not support other browsers such as Opera. If you do not want to use the program for a particular download, there is a temporary disabling feature.

I am impressed with this program and want to bring it to your attention. Here are some other comments from users taken from their site:

"I don't make a habit of E-Mailing people to comment on how wonderful something is, but today I made an exception, this download software is brilliant, a file that was causing me grief (12mb) was no problem, and I could simply stop the download and start it again. I will recommend it to anybody... BRILLIANT!!!"

"You have changed my downloading life!! This is the best tool I've come

across since being online!"

"Your product is truly amazing, and your product is as reliable working every time, as it makes downloading truly 300% faster."

There you have it! If this freeware product interests you, it can be found at <http://www.downloadaccelerator.com>.

## ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST

*Jay Graff*

Over the last 6 or 8 months, I have been collecting information on free ISP's and posting that information on my web site ([www.jaygraff.com](http://www.jaygraff.com)). For the last 4 months or so, almost all of my attention has been given to those ISP's that do not have a banner to contend with. It started out with around 4 that didn't have any advertising banners, but within a two week period, two of them, **WORLDSPY** and **FREEWWEB** went belly up. They both defaulted to using Juno mail in case you had any mail through their servers. That left really one that you could log onto without any annoying banners, **WORLDSHARE**. Now they too have followed the pack. I just received an email from them saying that while they were not quitting, they were changing over to what they call an "ad bar". So they too are getting out of the bannerless ISP market. For those that are not familiar with an ad bar, it is a small bar, about 1 inch high and can be reduced to around 6-8 inches. It is much more freely moveable than the ones that have the banners (**ALTA VISTA**, etc), granted, it is less intrusive than the big banner, but it is still there and there is no way to get rid of it while you are online.

The point to all of this is that (I have mentioned this before) some of these ISP's can be here today and gone tomorrow. We should not get to the point where we depend upon them and give up our ISP that we are paying for. Any one of them make an excellent back up in the event that your main provider goes down for some reason and it probably wouldn't hurt to have a couple installed. I have always heard that nothing is free in this world, that there is a price to pay for everything. I suppose the price we will have to pay for free internet service is to endure some kind of banner or bar. I guess the thing to do is find the one with the smallest bar and go from there until one comes along with a smaller one.

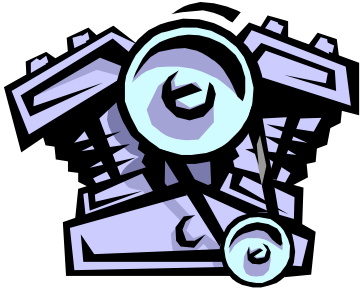


## Windows ME Preview

*Mark Reeves*

Later this month MS will ship the last of the Win9x OSs. There are a lot of new things, such as moving the MS-DOS prompt in the menu, new multi-media enhancements, **FASTER BOOTING**, streamlining the config.sys and autoexec.bat files just to name a few. It is much more stable than even Win98SE is. It responds much quicker and is has a registry backup and restore built in. It has many new home networking advances including an ISDN configuration tool. You will get a chance to look at Windows ME at our next meeting **BEFORE** its 14th release date. Some come and see the next MS OS.

Also do not forget that the next ComputerSheaux is Sept. 9th, please plan to attend and support our efforts to help the kids at Shriner's.



## A V-8 Engine on Your Son's Go Cart!?!

Wayne D. Ebert

While shopping for a computer the sales person said; "Here is a model with a 700 MHz CPU that costs a bit more but is the fastest one around". On reading the list of other components I commented; "Like putting a V-8 on a Go Cart". It was awful quiet so I felt obligate to explain the relationship. You may have the fastest Central Processing Unit [CPU] around but if you don't have fast enough Random Access Memory [RAM] or hard drive the system is slowed down to the fastest speed the slowest component can attain. It was still quiet. It is great that the CPU has a raw speed of and can do 700,000,000 tasks a second [700 MHz], but the system team has to find and adjust to a speed where a smooth continuous flow is attained. The CPU is the brain of a computer that performs three basic tasks. It reads, manipulates, and writes data to and from memory. This is done by putting millions of linked transistors on a small piece of silicon about the size of your thumbnail, which store electrical charges. These charges relate to the ones or zeros of the binary language computers use to communicate. To process data the tasks must be synchronized the function of the quartz crystal clock in the CPU. Five parts make up a basic CPU. The control unit manages all actions performed. The instruction fetch gets values/instructions from RAM. The

instruction decoder translates these into understandable instructions for the arithmetic logic and other units to accomplish the action requested. Lastly, the clock generator regulates the timing of the actions. To improve performance, three more parts were added to the basic CPU. The floating point unit handles the complex math freeing the arithmetic logic units' burden. Next came the Level 1 [L1] cache that temporarily stores RAM data in the CPU eliminating the need to travel to RAM or disk to obtain the data. The third unit is a higher speed Level 2 [L2] cache, stored deeper in the CPU that further reduces the time the basic CPU team must wait for new data or instructions to be accomplished. If overwhelmed by details, remember the CPU may be the fastest around but is only a member of the team of units that make your system perform. If you are shopping for a computer keep in mind that the faster the CPU relates to how much and how fast RAM data is obtained and how fast the hard drive can provide data. A hard sell on just the system's CPU, and not the other system team members, requires further investigation. You will soon observe that teamwork increases performance.



## Mark Your Calendar!!

**T**he Ark-LA-Tex ComputerSheaux is just around the corner!

The next Sheaux is scheduled for September 9, 2000.

After our last Sheaux, in May, Ark-LA-Tex ComputerFest, Inc. was awarded the Five Star Gold Book Society award from Shriner's Hospital for Children in recognition of surpassing \$50,000 in donations to the hospi-

tal. This was only possible because of the generous donation of time and effort from our area computer club members who so willingly volunteer to help with the quarterly Sheauxs.

Your help at the September Sheaux would be very much appreciated.

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group, as a sponsor of the Sheaux, receives free table space in a prime spot, reserved only for club sponsors, a link on their Web site and is listed on the sponsor posters displayed at the events.

## ~Web Sites~

### Grade Local Businesses

[www.ithought.com](http://www.ithought.com)

*(this site lets you add your input about local and US businesses by giving them a grade and adding comments. You can also add a business not listed . Check it out.)*

### AARP Computer Tips WEB Site

<http://um3.unitymail.net/T/A10>.

24.438.4.14065

*(An AARP Web site that offers how-to's to keep your computer running smoothly, along with computer tips)*

### Unclaimed Money Site

[www.missingmoney.com](http://www.missingmoney.com)

*(You may have missing money just waiting for you to claim. This site searches many states for unclaimed money to see if your name comes up on any of the lists)*

## 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.