



WE DO WINDOWS
THE WINDOW
 COME DO WINDOWS WITH US



**CADDO-BOSSIER
 WINDOWS
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City
 Louisiana

www.shreve.net/~cbwug

Volume 8 No 8

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

August 2006

July Meeting

By Glenda Conradi



Members watch a demonstration of Windows Vista

Windows Vista, the new Microsoft operating system, due to be released early in 2007, was the subject of the July meeting. Bernie Conradi showed the group the beta version of Vista, which at this point is not very stable, but he was able to get through the presentation without any lock-ups and showed some impressive features of the program that will

probably make it a very nice operating system when all the bugs are worked out. Bernie also showed examples of Word and Excel & Sharepoint, included in the new Office 2007 beta. That program is also due to be released in the early part of 2007, probably around the time the Microsoft Windows Vista operating system is supposed to be ready.

August Program

By Glenda Conradi

In August, club member Wayne Ebert is going to share with us some information on identity theft, something many of us never give a second thought. He is going to show how to take extra precautions now to protect your credit and peace of mind. Wayne

said he will talk about identity theft, what to do to protect yourself and what to do should you become a victim. This is something that we all need to become better informed about. Hopefully none of us will ever have this problem. Please join us and bring a friend.

MEETINGS

Thursday August 10, 2006

Thursday September 14, 2006

Podnuh's Bar-B-Q

1146 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy
 Shreveport, Louisiana

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Ark-La-Tex Computer Sheaux

~Sheaux Dates~

~2006 Dates~
 February 11, 2006
 May 13, 2006

August 12, 2006
 November 11, 2006



www.computersheaux.org

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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 ~**Check For Viruses**

When you download something off the Internet, or get an application from a friend, before you install it on your computer, or even open a file, it is a good idea to save it to a folder that you have created especially for this purpose on your hard drive. To check the file or application for viruses right click on the file you put in the folder

and choose the scan option that is listed on the drop down menu. It will probably say Scan with...and have the name of virus program you have installed on your computer. When you click on it the virus check should start and then give you a report on the status of the file. It is also important to do this to .exe files before running.

President's Page**Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group July Meeting**

We had two visitors, Louise Patton and Michelle LaCour, Rick LaCour's daughter, at the July meeting. Barbara Piazza told us about a really good free screen capture program. Carolyn Franklin asked if anyone had a good web site to download music in the MP3 format. There were several suggestions. Hallie Bellotte asked the question as to how to set a home page in Internet Explorer and why she could not get an Epson printer to work properly. We demonstrated how to set the home page in Internet Explorer and there were some suggestions on how to get her printer to work. Rick LaCour asked a question about formatting a hard drive and it was suggested he get the Maxtor Utilities disk and try it. For the program I brought a desktop computer from home to demonstrate the new Windows Vista beta. We mainly were able to see what this new operating system looks like and some of the features of it and some of the new parts that include the Gadgets, Snipit, and a new backup feature. We must be reminded that this is a beta only and is not to be put on the only computer you have or on one that you do you daily work on. Also, David Huckabee suggested that if we are interested in the beta of Vista that we download the Upgrade Advisor from Microsoft and run this program to determine what is necessary to be done to the computer that you want to install Vista on. We also took a quick look at the new Microsoft Office 2007 beta. We showed what Word, Excel, and Sharepoint (the replacement for Front Page) looked like.

The door prizes were a set of speakers won by Bob Salts and a mobile rack won by Bob Franklin.

I encourage everyone to surf to the CBWUG web page and check out the newsletters past and present. There are a lot of good tips and informative articles.

Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group.

Identity Theft

by Wayne Ebert

Do you remember back to simpler days when things were less complicated? It was just a few years ago that your social security number was printed on your drivers license and your checks. You did not think a thing about giving these checks to total strangers. With this much information freely available it's no wonder industrious thieves started cashing in on the easy money. Avoiding identity theft is much simpler than recovering from it. The hard part of identity theft is that you might not realize you've been victimized until it's too late. Don't let this happen to you, take extra precautions now to protect your credit and peace of mind. Start by adopting a "need to know" approach to your personal data. You call your credit card company to inquire about your account, for example, and are asked your mother's maiden name to compare your answer to the information already in your file is normal. However, you get a call from someone you don't know that asks for personal data, ask them to send you a written application form. If they won't, tell them you are not interested and hang up. If they will, review the application carefully and make sure it's going to a company or financial institution that's well known and reputable. Check the Better Business Bureau to see if complaints have been filed on the company or application.

For more, detailed information do a search for Identity Theft and Fraud and scroll down to the www.usdoj.gov entry. Another would be a search for Take Charge: Fighting Back Against Identity Theft on the www.ftc.gov web site.

If you are a victim of identity theft, take the following four steps as soon as possible, and keep a record with the details of your conversations and copies of all correspondence.

1. Place a fraud alert on your credit reports, and review your credit

reports.

Fraud alerts can help prevent an identity thief from opening any more accounts in your name. Contact the toll-free fraud number of any of the three consumer reporting companies below to place a fraud alert on your credit report. You only need to contact one of the three companies to place an alert. The company you call is required to contact the other two, which will place an alert on their versions of your report, too.

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289

Once you place the fraud alert in your file, you're entitled to order free copies of your credit reports. Once you get your credit reports, review them carefully. Continue to check your credit reports periodically, especially for the first year after you discover the identity theft, to make sure no new fraudulent activity has occurred.

GETTING STARTED WITH XP

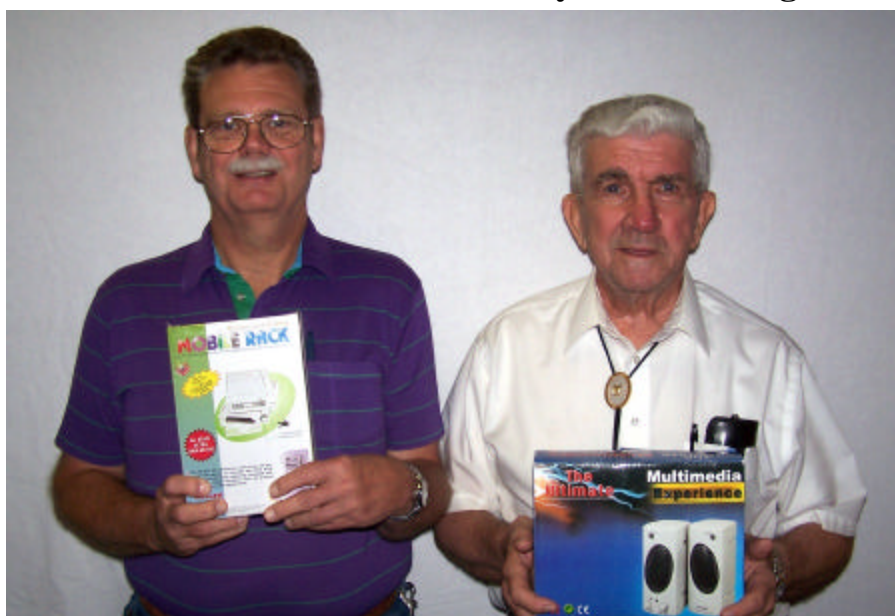
Checkdisk (chkdsk)

Chkdsk, which is like Scandisk in previous versions of Windows, creates and displays a status report for a disk based on the file system. It also lists and corrects errors on the disk.

The following is one way to run a chkdsk

1. Double click on My Computer
2. Right click on the drive you want to check
3. Select Properties
4. Click on the Tools tab
5. Click on the Check Now button
6. Check to Automatically fix file system errors - This is the same as running chkdsk /f
7. If you want to Scan for and attempt recovery of bad sectors, check that box - This is the same as running chkdsk /R. It can also add a lot of time to the scan
8. Reboot if necessary when Chkdsk has finished.

Door Prizes Winners for July 2006 Meeting



Bob Franklin and Bob Salts

The July door prizes were won by members Bob Franklin, a Mobile Rack and Bob Salts, a set of speakers. All Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group club members in attendance are eligible to win door prizes at the monthly meetings.

EULA

By David M. Huckabee

When you buy a piece of software, during the installation process, you usually get a box that you have to agree to a long list of things in order to install the program. This list of stuff you don't read is called a EULA (*End-User License Agreement*). A EULA is a legal contract between the manufacturer and/or the author and the end user of an application. The EULA details how the software can and can not be used and any restrictions that the manufacturer imposes. (e.g., most EULA's of proprietary software prohibit the user from sharing the software with anyone else or reverse engineering it).

There has been a discussion recently about the EULA that Microsoft has put in their Windows XP operating system. Some of the well known computer columnists have raised a big RED FLAG that Microsoft is "out to get your money" by requiring you to purchase a new copy of the operating system if you replace your motherboard in your computer.

If you have purchased a computer with Microsoft Windows XP pre-installed from an OEM (e.g., Hewlett Packard, Sony, eMachines, or Gateway), you probably have a System Locked Pre-installation (SLP) version of the operating system. This operating system is provided to these OEM's at a greatly reduced price with the stipulation that they provide all of the support and "hand-holding" that is required to get their system up and running. The OEM's have the option to place code in the operating system that will require it to be used ONLY on their systems. It would be costly if they had to support operating systems on their competitor's machines. This code is SLP. It locks the operating system to certain BIOS (Basic Input-Output System) settings. The operating system has the power to read the processor model type, memory serial numbers, etc. Nearly everything in your computer has a

serial number or model number that can be used to identify it from other hardware. So, if you replace a motherboard with another motherboard from another manufacturer, you may not be able to use the operating system that is installed on that computer. You may be able to purchase a motherboard from the OEM that will work and be recognized. This is a EULA between you and the hardware manufacturer. The OEM might let you replace everything else in the computer and not violate their EULA.

Volume Licensed Product Key (VLK) products won't have to be activated, does no hardware checking, or has no limitations on installation. These are purchased in volume from Select License vendors, Microsoft Open License, or Enterprise Agreement.

Retail-boxed Windows XP has a EULA of its own. The system generates a hash code (a number that is computed using an algorithm from select hardware properties) and compares it with the hash code of the current configuration, if it is OK, within a certain range, you have a legitimate working OS.

Activation and the EULA ensure that you are using a legitimate product for your own safety. If you use an OS you have downloaded from a web site, you don't know whether it has been altered or not. It may transmit everything about your financial life to someone else.

Sure, it means that Microsoft will be making more money if there are less pirated copies out there. If you don't want to agree to the EULA put out by Microsoft or the OEMs there are other operating systems that you can use.

Some of the columnists have not read the EULA and are trying to generate a lot of misinformation. Next time, try to read the EULA before you agree, it might confuse you or it might open your eyes.

~Web Sites~

How to access the true Administrator account in Windows Vista

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticlesBasic&articleId=9001970>

(There's a bug in Vista Beta 2 that can cause you serious woe if you create a password for your Administrator account in Computer Management)

Equifax

<http://www.equifax.com>

(Equifax Credit Watch is a monthly subscription service that gives you online access to a comparison of your three nationwide credit reports)

Experian

<http://www.experian.com>

(Get a free Experian® credit score and report when you begin your free 30-day trial of Experian Credit Manager)

TransUnion

<http://www.transunion.com>

(Unlimited access to your TransUnion credit report and credit score, Try it FREE for 30 days then it is \$9.95 per month)

Keyboard Assistance

<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/keyboard.aspx>

(Find keyboard shortcuts for leading Microsoft products with the click of your mouse at this Web site.)

Microsoft Windows Downloads

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/default.mspx>

(Keep your computer current with the latest fixes, enhancements, and drivers straight from Microsoft.)



DID YOU KNOW?

You can stop the screensaver from coming on by just clicking on the start button so that the menu is shown on the monitor screen. Leave the menu up and the screensaver will not start.