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**CADDO-BOSSIER
 WINDOWS
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City
 Louisiana

Volume 5, No 1

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

January, 2003

Happy New Year



Part of the group watching a demonstration at the December meeting

The Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. May you and your loved ones be blessed with good health, prosperity and happiness throughout the coming year.

Any Ole Cleaner

By Wayne Ebert

My frustration level had grown to near bursting level when booting my "Work" computer that I use to download and test software that may be useful to other users. When an operating system [OS] problem is encountered and an error dialog box displays simply press the ALT + PRINT SCREEN keys to copy just the image not the entire screen when pressing only the PRINT SCREEN key. Open WordPad and on the Edit menu in the document

window, click Paste. All that displayed in this instance was the statement saying a window's protection error has occurred, restart your computer. On restart the options menu displays to select the mode you want to use. In some instances initiating Bootlog may reveal the source of the error, but not the source file name that loads the file to cause the error. Aware that when you

(Continued on page 4)

MEETINGS

Thursday Jan. 9, 2003

Thursday Feb. 13, 2003

Podnuh's Bar-B-Q

1146 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy
 Shreveport, Louisiana

Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month

7 p.m.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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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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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

C-B WUG's Web Address
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~Thank You~

We want to express our gratitude to:

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 ~

Help Stop Email Viruses

If you use Outlook Express you may be able to greatly lessen your chances of having an e-mail virus launch automatically when an e-mail message opens in the preview pane. The trick is to disable the Outlook Express Preview pane. Choose View/Layout and deselect the "Show preview pane" check box. Click OK to close the dialog box and ap-

ply the selection.

A small paperclip icon should appear in the left column of Outlook Express to show if a message has an attachment and, if it does, who sent it.

If you do not recognize who the sender is or are suspicious of the message you can delete it without opening it.

At least you have a choice.

President's Page



Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group December Meeting

The meeting started with a short business session for the election of officers for the upcoming year. The officers for the New Year will be Bernie Conradi, President, Wayne Ebert, Vice President, Glenda Conradi, Secretary, and Charles Byrd, Treasurer. David Huckabee was nomination to fill the newly created board position and approved by the members. Software reviews must be boxed versions that can be registered in order for the board to consider them for review by this group. David Huckabee will be signing our group up for membership in the APCUG. He will also be our representative to that group. Dues for admission to APCUG were approved by the board.

The questions for the evening were about adding and deleting components to Windows and the use of a regular CRT monitor with a curved or flat screen and the use of a LCD monitor and how to set up the properties in Windows for the specific monitor you have. There were also questions about deleting temporary Internet files and setting up your swop files. The program by Mark this evening was about the types of CPU towers and the cooling necessary for them and about DVD writers and their uses. We are supposed to have more information on this new form of storage for your home movies and slides. The door prizes this evening were a Windows XP Inside Out book won by Joe Pugh, a power strip won by Frank Page, a Step by Step Windows XP book won by Glenda Conradi, printer paper won by Carole White, and a Dogz II screen saver program won by Glenn Price.

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.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season.
Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group

TripLink

By Jay Graff

If you do a lot of long distance driving, I have discovered a neat toy that could prove invaluable in finding your way. I first read about this in the newspaper and went to the website where it was being offered and bought one.

It is called *TripLink* and is sold by Rand McNally, although I am sure that you can find them locally as well.

It offers you all kinds of options that I could have used on the last trip I took. Example: We were looking for a Burger King, but every stop we passed advertised every fast food place BUT BK. With this device, you turn it on, press 2 for Highway Services and put in the abbreviation of the state you are driving in. The next display is to ascertain that the state matches the abbreviation you entered, it then asks you which highway you are on. Once you establish that, it asks you which direction you are traveling. (This seems like a lot of work, but it all takes a few seconds) Then you are asked which mileage marker you saw last. After you put that info in, all you need to do is put in the first two letters of whatever it is you are looking for and it gives you a display of the restaurant, (or gas station) the exit, how many more miles to go and the estimated driving time.

I am still exploring the many features that *TripLink* offers, but as I said, I am only up to about page 3 of the manual. A function that may or may not be that great is it's ability to download and store door-to-door directions to and from wherever it is you are going. You have to go to www.randmcnally.com and click on the link for *triplink*. The directions are very detailed. I did one from my house to my son's in St Louis and the first thing it told me was how to get out of the street I live on. If you ever use this, it would be wise to print out the corresponding directions on paper so you can follow where it is that *triplink* is telling you to go as you are looking at a little 2" LCD screen. It also gives you info on how to follow your route on the roadmap they sell.

When you buy the *triplink*, it comes with software that allows you to

hook a cable up to a spare serial port. Usually, most folks could have a mouse hooked up to it, so you may want to think about other mouse options, such as USB or a PS/2.

One of the quirks of this is that when you go to download your door-to-door directions, you must use Internet Explorer. For some reason, it will not work with Netscape. This does not pose a major problem since anyone that has Windows also has Internet Explorer.

You can probably find this item at any major outlet that sells computers, although I believe it is not quite as expensive if you order it directly from www.randmcnally.com. If you just want to check it out to see if it is something you might want, you can also go there.

So the next time you are planning a trip and intend to drive, check out this neat little device. I don't believe you will regret it.

GETTING STARTED WITH XP

Unlock and Customize Toolbars

In Windows XP you can take advantage of a locking toolbars feature that also lets you adjust the toolbars. You can customize many of the Windows XP features such as the Start Menu, Taskbar, and toolbar icons in Outlook Express and Internet Explorer.

Right-click on a toolbar
Click Lock the Toolbars to remove the check mark.

Right-click on the toolbar again
Click Customize.

You can add and remove toolbar buttons, change text options and icon options.

After customizing, the toolbar click Close.

Now right-click on the toolbar
Click Lock the Toolbars to lock them in place.

Door Prizes Winners for December 2002 Meeting



Joe Pugh, Frank Page, Glenda Conradi, Carole White and Glenn Price.

The door prize winners at the December meeting were Joe Pugh, XP book; Frank Page, power strip; Glenda Conradi, XP book; Carole White, printer photo paper and Glenn Price, Dogz II screen saver.

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

Netscape Mail Problem

A Lesson in Learning

By *Bernie Conradi*

Just recently Glenda checked her mail and was not able to see the new downloaded messages in her Inbox. We tried downloading mail again and yes the mail would download but it was not able to be seen in the Inbox. After struggling with this dilemma for a couple of days and talking with some friends at the CBWUG it was determined that the email index for the inbox was corrupt or in error some way. We did a lot of searching on the internet at Netscape's web site and the help and support section of Netscape and our research paid off because we found an article entitled "All of my old email has disappeared". This article stated that it was possible that the index for the email program had become corrupt. This article also gave a suggested way to correct the problem. The solution was to find the .snm file for the Inbox, since this was the file that was corrupt. After locating the correct file to delete and then restarting Netscape mail the .snm or index file will recreate itself in the restart process. (The .snm files are the index files or placeholders for your email. They are not actual inbox files, drafts, etc., and may be safely deleted.) We followed the instructions given to us by Netscape help and yes the problem was solved and we were again able to see the newest messages in the Inbox. Also, a member of the CBWUG suggested that Glenda's mail program had reached the maximum allowable limit for the number of messages it could handle and that is why it would no longer see the new messages as they were coming in. (The number is somewhere over 16,000; the exact number I could never determine.) In addition, we also deleted approximately 2500 messages from the mail program and as a result of the deletion of messages and the rebuilding of the .snm file we are now able to receive messages again and see them in the Inbox.

(Any Ole Cleaner Cont. from Pg 1)

uninstall software the start up may not be removed from the registry, the config.sys or start up file, and it may take some time to locate and correct the problem. There has to be a better way! Ready to use any ole cleaner I found RegCleaner below RegClean in the Find listing. This is not RegClean the registry cleaner that is included in Microsoft's Windows as the names are not the same. I remembered that I had read about this application and had downloaded RegCleaner V 4.30.780 from <http://www.webattack.com/get/regcleaner.shtml>. RegCleaner is copyrighted, "as is" without any warranty of any kind freeware that has some distribution restrictions addressed in the RegCleaner Readme file. You can choose to manually select and remove entries or use the automatic cleanup feature that will scan your system and find obsolete entries automatically. RegCleaner can detect and remove file types, entries of old software, unused DLL files, unused Shared DLLs and also allow you to uninstall and remove software from the Add/Remove list. Also, offers an overview of all programs that start with Windows with the option to remove selected entries. A backup feature allows you to undo the changes. There are too many very useful functions to cover in this article. RegCleaner runs in Windows 9x/NT/ME/2000 but XP is not mentioned [yet]. WebAttack.com has the latest version, V 4.30.780, but earlier versions are available on some other sites. There are some other useful tools available for download at WebAttack.com. RegCleaner ran on a Win98SE system and resulted in a marked improvement in the operating system, including correction of the window protection error. Should you download and test an application, we would like to know about it so write a review to print in this newsletter.

February ComputerSheaux

The upcoming ComputerSheaux is scheduled for February 8, 2003. 8 a.m. till 4 p.m. at the Bossier Civic Center. Please mark your calendar and plan to spend some time helping with the Sheaux. We also need volunteers to sit at our club table.

Your efforts are deeply appreciated and help raise money for the Shriners Hospital for Children in Shreveport.

~Web Sites~

Major Geeks

www.majorgeeks.com

(All sorts of downloads, information and links—worth taking a peek)

Black Viper's Web Site

www.blkviper.com

(Provides a chat style list of information and links)

How-To Help Center

www.pcmag.com/category2/1,4148,798223,00.asp

(The PC Magazine How-To Help Center provides a good selection of help and information articles to assist you with those new computer gadgets Santa left under your tree)

Hits At Home

www.hitsathome.com

(Like sports? You may find this site interesting. Lots of info on many popular sports)

Game Cabinet Rules!

www.centralconnector.com/GAMES/GameCab.html

(Did you lose the rules to your favorite board game or forget how to play a card game? Go here and you will probably find the rules)



DID YOU KNOW?

There's an easy way to check to see what windows updates you've installed.

In Internet Explorer, select Tools>>Windows Update. Click on the Products Update link, and then select the Installation History button.