



WE DO WINDOWS  
**THE WINDOW**  
 COME DO WINDOWS WITH US



**CADDO-BOSSIER  
 WINDOWS  
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City  
 Louisiana

[www.shreve.net/~cbwug](http://www.shreve.net/~cbwug)

Volume 4, No 1

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

January, 2002

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

### Belarc Advisor

By Glenda Conradi



*Kristie Sanders demonstrates the program Belarc Advisor*

Kristie Sanders demonstrated Belarc Advisor, a computer profile summary program, to the group. This could prove to be a very handy tool if you ever need to know exactly what is on your computer or if you are just curious and would like to see what is there. It might be a good idea to print the information out and keep it with your household inventory re-

ords. The Freeware program, available at [www.belarc.com](http://www.belarc.com), will scan your computer and compile a list of everything installed on your computer including hardware, software and even the main circuit board. It even lists the version, manufacturer and serial number and other information such as available hard drive space and memory slots.

## Microsoft The Big Day

Microsoft Big Day is coming back to Shreveport January 11, 2002 at Harrah's Shreveport Hotel & Casino, 315 Clyde Fant Parkway, 7:30 am till 3:00 pm. You can register for the free seminar at [www.msbigday.com](http://www.msbigday.com). To see more information about the seminar go to <http://www.msbigday.com/agenda.asp>

### \*MEETINGS\*

Thursday Jan. 10, 2002

Thursday Feb. 14, 2002

#### 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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 East 70th-Shreveport

### Ark-La-Tex Computer Sheaux

~Sheaux Dates~

~2002 Dates~

February 16, 2002

May 11, 2002

August 10, 2002

November 9, 2002



[www.computersheaux.org](http://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 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 (voting privileges)  
Student: \$6.00 a year (no voting privileges)

**C-B WUG's Web Address**  
[www.shreve.net/~cbwug](http://www.shreve.net/~cbwug)

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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

**ShreveNet, Inc.** – For providing web space for our club.

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

**~A QUICK TIP~****COLD BOOT**

A good habit to get into is to always shut down your computer after you have made any upgrades or updates to the system. After you have turned it off then restart the machine.

This process is referred to as the "Cold Boot" and resets all of the components in the system. By doing this reset function each time you change

something on your computer's system you will help insure that the changes you made will work.

Just remember before you install anything on your computer that you need to close all programs that may be working in the background such as virus checking programs.

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

The meeting for the last month of the year requires the election of officers for the upcoming year. A motion was made, seconded and carried by the membership that the current officers be elected by acclamation. The officers are Bernie Conradi, President, Wayne Ebert, Vice President, Glenda Conradi, Secretary, and Keith O'Kelly, Treasurer. The visitors this month were Renee and Shannon Walls. The question and answer session was lengthy with questions about problems loading Windows XP, the use of the Windows XP upgrade advisor, installing Windows 95 on a Compaq notebook with a 250mhz processor, and the use of Drive Image and how it works. Mark Reeves suggested the use of the backup program from Veritas. Other backup means discussed were Norton Ghost, Drive Copy, tape drives, and the use of CDR's and CDR-W as a media. Bob Nutt asked questions about the use of the shareware program Mailwasher. We had a rather long discussion on the use of virus programs and the viruses that members have encountered since the last meeting. Kristie Sanders demonstrated the program Belarc Advisor. This program can be used to keep an inventory of your computer hardware and software.

The door prizes were: Optical Mouse donated by Kyle Widener won by Joe Blase; Volcano speakers donated by Julious Windham won by Jack Burke; Christmas carols CD donated by Carole White won by Julious Windham, a Boss Fonts program donated by Jay Graff won by Glenda Conradi, McAfee Office 2000 won by Renee & Shannon Walls & a Pinball ThrillRide game donated by Gateway Country Store that was won by Bob Nutt. A big thank you to everyone who donated door prizes.

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.

*Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group*

**REMINDER: Membership renewals due at the January User Group meeting**

## Trade Off

By Jay Graff

OK, I'm the guy that wrote the article a couple of months ago complaining about how much all of the stuff that was supposed to protect you and keep your computer running smoothly was slowing me down.

But since then, I have had a change of heart (of sorts). Let me start at the beginning, or at least from the point where I was inspired to write the article.

I am running Windows 98SE and I was having some shutdown problems I thought I had them pretty much worked out until I installed Norton Anti-Virus on my system. Not only was it slowed considerably (it checks all of your system files on start up) but my shutdown problems returned in a **BIG** way. Actually, I was not able to shut down at all. I tried all of the usual tricks, but nothing seemed to work.

After discovering that Norton was indeed the culprit, I uninstalled it and things were back to semi-normal again, which is my usual situation.

But then I ran into an even bigger problem. Since I no longer had Norton, I was at risk for getting any number of viruses, running the gamut from annoying to downright destructive.

Soon after I removed Norton, I was one day unable to access my Windows Explorer. It wasn't only Explorer, I could not go to control panel or anything that was remotely associated with Windows Explorer. Since I use it a lot, I was in deep trouble. I took it to my trusty repair guy, never even considering it could have been a virus that caused my problem. I guess during the course of his diagnostics, he ran a virus scan and found around 20 viruses or so. He repaired most of them, quarantined the others and I was back in business.

But this was a wake up call to me. Once I mentioned that my whole life is governed by the last crisis that I go through and this was no exception. Now, I have Norton running in the background with Autoprotect turned on. Since I do lots of downloading

from the web, this is the wisest choice. It has already paid off catching at least 3 viruses that I picked up. I used to work with a guy that said that life was one big trade-off. He believed there were trade-offs in almost any situation and this is a perfect example.

My machine is still a bit slow, but now at least I know that I am pretty much protected from most bugs as long as I keep my virus definitions up to date. Some may eventually get through, but I figure a routine periodic scan should catch any that do.

BTW, about my shutdown problems? I would still have them, except that I have figured out a way around them. Now, when I go to shut down, I tell it to reboot in DOS mode. As soon as I see a black screen, I power down. I don't know if this can cause any problems down the road, but at least it is not hanging there, waiting for stuff to close.

## Door Prizes Winners for December Meeting

Thanks to some very generous members there was an abundance of door prizes at the December meeting.

A set of Volcano speakers donated by Julious Windham was won by Jack Burke; an Optical Mouse donated by Kyle Widner was won by Joe Blase; a Christmas carols CD donated by Carole White was won by Julious Windham. Gateway Country Store donated a Pinball ThrillRide game that was won by Bob Nutt. A Boss Fonts program donated by Jay Graff was won by Glenda Conradi.

The club provided door prize was McAfee Office 2000 won by Renee & Shannon Walls. Renee & Shannon were first time visitors at our meeting. Since it was the holiday season visitors and members were all included in the door prize drawings.



Glenda Conradi, Renee & Shannon Walls, Jack Burke, Joe Blasé, Bob Nutt & Julious Windham Were the lucky door prize winners.



## Online Shopping Tips

By Wayne Ebert

For some, Christmas season does not end on Christmas Day, or even the first month of the New Year. They, the online shoppers especially, wait for the arrival of their credit card statement. Those who provide their account number over the telephone should be concerned as well as those who complete a transaction without the locked padlock icon being displayed indicating that the transaction is encrypted and secure. This is not an article to belittle the later, it is an article to provide all credit card users with information that is available concerning the protection of your identity and credit. My receipt of a, shall we say, very questionable e-mail on who may obtain or distribute your credit information that resulted in a visit to <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/pubs/alerts/optalrt.html>. In turn, this FTC Consumer Alert established the relationship of identity and credit.

Think of identity as your Social Security Account Number [SSAN] as with it, combined with your date of birth, it is possible to obtain detailed information on you and may be adequate to obtain a credit card. For a better understanding visit <http://www.cpsr.org/cpsr/privacy/ssn/ssn.faq.html> which is in several sections starting with Frequently Ask Question (FAQs) to Identity Theft Resources. Suggest you place this URL in your favorites listing as there are numerous links to related information, including junk [snail] mail and identity theft. Another to visit is the Identity Theft Resource Center at <http://www.idtheftcenter.org> that has tests to determine if you are doing everything possible to keep your identity safe. More on protecting your identity is at <http://www.privacyrights.org/identity>.

htm.

Upon reviewing the above the value of a single use credit card for online shoppers became obvious. Inquire if your bank offers a single use credit card service. A single use credit card service [[www.mbnashopsafe.com](http://www.mbnashopsafe.com)] has been available for download and installation for quite some time. With a single use credit card you limit the amount the generated number is valid for and you set the expiration date. The number generated can not be used again beyond the limits you establish. Each credit bureau may have the service but refer to the service by a title, such as Discover DeskShop [[www.discovercard.com](http://www.discovercard.com)], or MasterCard's e-wallet [[www.mastercardintl.com](http://www.mastercardintl.com)], and at [[www.americanexpress.com](http://www.americanexpress.com)] a Private Payment card for example. When used these transactions will appear on your credit cards statement within the use period you have established and enable you to identify any charge you have not originated. Should the total cost of the transaction exceed the established amount specified the transaction is rejected so include the applicable shipping costs and taxes when establishing the amount. Should you have a problem with your account, call 888-567-8688, which is a line some major credit bureaus have established to assist you in correcting the problem. Should you suspect a faulty product, visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov). For research on products you intend to purchase, visit [www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org) or subscribe to [www.consumerreports.org](http://www.consumerreports.org). For Federal Trade Commission consumer protection, visit the FTC web site at [www.ftc.gov.consumer.htm](http://www.ftc.gov.consumer.htm).

## GETTING STARTED WITH XP

### Change Look of Start Menu

When you click the Start button Windows XP has a new layout that is different than previous versions of Windows. You may like the new look but then again you may prefer to have the old familiar layout. You have a choice so you may want to try them both before you decide which one you want to settle on.

To make the change right click the start button or any blank area of the Start menu and select Properties. On the Start Menu tab of the Taskbar and Start Menu Properties dialog box, select Classic Start Menu, then click OK. If you want to go back to the new XP look follow the same procedure and click on Start Menu.

### ~Web Sites~

#### Karen's Power Tools & Newsletter

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

(Free newsletters, programs & tips for your computer)

#### Tech TV Tech News

[www.techtv.com/news](http://www.techtv.com/news)

(Latest computer news from Techlive)

#### Do Not Call

<http://host.ntg.com/donotcall/>

(Stop those annoying telemarketing phone calls)

#### ExpertZone

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/expertzone/default.asp>

(Windows XP tips, downloads, quizzes, newsgroups and more)

#### Plan a Trip

<http://www.randmcnally.com/rmc/road/rtgHome.jsp>

(Plot out your entire trip from start to finish -- even your stops along the way)



### DID YOU KNOW?

If your right mouse button is not working or missing you can hold down the Shift key, Ctrl key and left mouse button to drag and drop an item on your screen.