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THE WINDOW
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**CADDO-BOSSIER
 WINDOWS
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City
 Louisiana

www.shreve.net/~cbwug

Volume 7 No 7

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

July 2005

June Meeting

By Glenda Conradi



Glenda Conradi demonstrates Microsoft Digital Image Pro 10

Microsoft Mindshare sent Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group a copy of the Photo editing program Microsoft Digital Image Pro 10 and asked that it be demonstrated to the group and then given as a door prize. For the June program Glenda Conradi gave a presentation on this very versatile program.

Microsoft Mindshare also included several other items to be

given as door prizes. The lucky winner of Microsoft Digital Image Pro 10 was Jim Wertz. On page three of this publication is a picture of all the prize winners and what they won.

Bernie mentioned the new Windows and Office updates that have been released and there were questions and comments about Outlook Express, Incredimail and saving and forwarding photos in emails.

July Program

By Glenda Conradi

There are some important maintenance guidelines to follow to keep your computer running smoothly and we have had several guest speakers who have shown us some great tips and rules to follow to help us do just that.

For our June program member Bernie Conradi has agreed to share

some ways to protect the data on our computers with regular backups. If you are not making backups this may be a good time to start.

As in all of our meetings there will be plenty of time to answer questions about problems you may be having or hear about a problem you have solved.

MEETINGS

Thursday July 14, 2005
 Thursday August 11, 2005

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~

*~2005 Dates~
 February 12, 2005
 May 14, 2005*

August 13, 2005
 November 12, 2005



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~**Change or Remove Sounds**

You can change, or silence some of the sounds your computer makes. Some programs have built in sounds.

If you would like to choose a different sound or turn sounds off follow these steps.

* Go to the Control Panel ("Start | Settings | Control Panel" menu item)

* Double click on Sounds icon

* Scroll through the list of event sounds and select the program and the related event that you want to modify

* Use controls at the bottom to disable (set sound name to "None") or select a different sound

* Click "OK" and close the Control Panel before testing the event sound.

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

Our meeting this month was a little different. We were provided a box from Microsoft Mindshare consisting of the program Microsoft Digital Image Pro Version 10, Microsoft Photo Story 3, and some T-shirts. Glenda gave the presentation demonstrating some of the features of both programs and at the end of the meeting the programs and T-shirts were given away as door prizes. Jim Wertz won the Microsoft Digital Image Pro Version 10; Ron Silva won the Microsoft Laptop & Tablet PC Book; and T-Shirts were won by Bob Franklin and Jay Graff.

Congratulations to our winners. I would like to thank Microsoft Mindshare for the program and door prizes and thank Glenda for giving the presentation. I believe this is one way that we can see new programs without buying them to determine if it is something we would be interested in.

Our question and answer session consisted of questions about how to compact folders in Outlook Express; why Outlook express is slowed down; how to forward attachments. People were reminded that the next round of Windows updates will be coming out on June 14, 2005, and to be on the lookout for them. I also mentioned that there will be a new Windows Update Version 6 coming out in the near future and that it is supposed to include all Windows Updates and Office updates into one update format.

I would like to request input from the group, about the subject of future programs. Please do not hesitate to let your interests be known. We are open for suggestions. Send me, or Glenda, an email, or better yet let us know at the meeting. We want to know what you are interested in seeing or hearing about. 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 as an email attachment in rtf format to glenda@conradi.com.

Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group

Microsoft Digital Image Pro 10

By Glenda Conradi

I have had Microsoft Digital Image Pro 10 on my computer for some time, but had not really tried it out until Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group received a copy of the Photo editing program from Microsoft Mindshare. There was a request that it be given as a door prize at one of our meetings after it had been demonstrated to the group. I must say there was a lot of excitement after we saw all the neat things this program can accomplish. I think everyone there was hoping they would be the lucky winner.

The program includes a great step-by-step tutorial so it was very easy to show everyone what features the program offers.

When you open Digital Image Pro 10 for the first time it will open a Tour box and unless you remove the checkmark from "Show On Start Up" it will load each time you open the program. I like to leave mine on so I can run through some of the tours occasionally.

In the Tour box you can view brief overviews on the following items: Touch Up Pictures; Apply Special Effects; Edit multiple Pictures; and Print and Share. When you click on one of the above categories you will see a list of options to look at. For instance Touch Up Pictures includes the Focusing Tools; Lighting; Remove Imperfections; Crop and Selection Tools. In the Remove Imperfections lesson you will be shown how to fix red eyes; remove a blemish; remove wrinkles; polish teeth; shrink a double chin and improve the focus.

If you choose Lighting to look at the tour will cycle through sets of pictures that show the before and after effects of correcting the lighting of an image. At the bottom of the

page you can click on How do I fix lighting problems, which takes you to the help menu that gives you a lot of choices to look at. You may also click on Video: Basic photo touch up, and you will open an instructional video that talks you through, and shows you, exactly how to make corrections to a photo.

Not all of the tours include a video, but those that do are very informative.

I work with several digital editing programs and was impressed with what Microsoft Digital Image Pro 10 has to offer and the ease of learning how to use it, thanks to the tutorials and Help menu.

I would like to thank Microsoft Mindshare for providing us a copy to share with one of our members.

GETTING STARTED WITH XP

Protect Taskbar & Start Menu

Prevent other people from altering your Taskbar and Start menu by restricting access to the Taskbar and Start Menu settings. Users will be unable to open the Taskbar Properties dialog box and make changes to the existing settings.

1. Click Start and click Run.
2. Type gpedit.msc and Click OK.
3. Expand User Configuration | Administrative Templates | Start Menu and Taskbar.
4. In the details pane double click Prevent changes to the Taskbar and Start menu Settings.
5. Click Enabled.
6. Click OK.
7. Close the Group Policy editor.

When they right click the task bar and properties a message will tell them the action cannot be performed.

Door Prizes Winners for June 2005 Meeting



Ron Silva, Bob Franklin, Jay Graff & Jim Wertz

The June Door prizes were Step by Step Laptop and Tablet PC book won by Ron Silva, T-shirts won by Bob Franklin & Jay Graff and Microsoft Digital Image Suite 10 won by Jim Wertz. All Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group club members in attendance are eligible to win door prizes at the monthly meetings.

Buyer Beware

By David M. Huckabee

So you think it's about time to get a new computer? The new computers are so cheap and, like a new car, they have that special smell that is addictive. Do not get "roped" into the misconception that a "cheap" computer will do everything you need. Did you just buy the latest game and it does not work on your old computer or a computer that is not so old?

These traps have snared many people lately.

First, let's talk about the games. Before you buy that "must-have" game, be aware that some retailers will not refund your money if you have opened the box and it does not work on your system. Look at the requirements printed on the box. If it says that it needs a certain operating system, you can bet it won't operate on an older one. The required processor speed, disk space and memory is a given. A lot of the new, LARGE games require a high-performance video card with at least 128 megabytes of video memory (not shared). Shared video memory is system memory that is used by the video card. System memory that is shared is slower than video memory because it has to go through a few more steps to be processed and slows down the fast display of game action. Take a look at the suggested video card manufacturers and models. If you have filled all of the requirements to run the games, you may still have issues that will keep the game from running. You will need the latest drivers for the sound card and the video card. Some of the games will even load the latest Direct X drivers required by the operating system. If you have a "marginal" system that just meets the requirements, you may have to end some of the system processes that are running in the background. It is a good idea to defrag-

ment the hard drive before installing the game. Some of the flat-panel displays will not display the game fast action movements without distracting things showing up on the screen. Maybe it is time for a new computer if you MUST play the latest games. Let's look at a new desktop computer. Some of the new, cheap models may be just what you may need. They probably will not play the latest games but will get your e-mail, browse the internet, write letters, and do your home finances. Most of the computers have a network interface and some have wireless network capabilities. Take a look at the video interface; an on-board video interface probably is not high-performance. A lot of the "boxed" computers do not come with a monitor (they let you decide what you want). Try to buy or upgrade that "boxed" computer with a processor that is suited for what you will be doing with it and add a little extra speed for later. Get 512 megabytes or more of memory. Buy the largest and fastest hard drive that you can afford (you will fill up a small hard drive, fast). A DVD/CD combo drive that will write DVDs and CDs is a must. Try out the keyboard and mouse before you buy, these are your personal contact with the computer and will be the first thing you will either love or hate about the computer. Look at the warranty and how much customer support you may expect from the store or manufacturer. Get a monitor you can live with, the flat panels are nice, but expensive, and some are not fast enough to keep up with the latest games or movies. If editing movies, look for TV input and output, Firewire ports, and USB2 ports. Get a good set of speakers.

While you are at it, protect your investment with a UPS battery backup.

~Web Sites~

Tech Support Alert

http://www.techsupportalert.com/best_46_free_utilities.htm
(The 46 Best-ever Freeware Utilities)

WUGNET

<http://forums.wugnet.com/>
(Your Complete Resource Center for "The Best" in Shareware, Computing Tips and Support, Windows Industry News... and much more!)

Malek Tips

http://malektips.com/windows_xp_help_and_tips.html
(free computer help, hints, and tips)

Art Pad Digital Canvas

<http://artpad.art.com/artpad/painter/>
(Draw a masterpiece or doodle just for fun)

Newsletters For Free

<http://newslettersforfree.com/index.php?site=106&s=tnksgn>
(A site that offers free email newsletters. Choose as many as you wish. No obligation of any kind. Unsubscribe at any time.)

WordWeb

<http://wordweb.info/free/>
(Includes a comprehensive English thesaurus and dictionary, and can be used to look up words from within most programs.)

The Great Software List

<http://www.anova.org/software/index04.htm#graphics>
(Gives a review on programs it considers good to do certain tasks)



DID YOU KNOW?

A very quick way to find out the size of a directory (or a folder) including the size of the files and directories inside it -- is to click on the folder to highlight it and then press ALT+ENTER.

You can easily find the folder you want to check the size of in Windows Explorer.