



WE DO WINDOWS
THE WINDOW
 COME DO WINDOWS WITH US



**CADDO-BOSSIER
 WINDOWS
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City
 Louisiana

www.shreve.net/~cbwug

Volume 10 No 6

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

June 2008

May Meeting

By Glenda Conradi



Mike Parks center, and group, listen to Richard Conradi's presentation.

Richard Conradi, with After Hours Computer Specialist, LLC, joined us for the May meeting; along with Mike Parks, one of the owners of the company. Richard gave tips on how to protect your computer from some of the problems that most computer

owners face at one time or another. He cautioned that it is important to keep original software, and CD key numbers, where you can find them incase you ever need to reinstall the software. He suggested using a spiral notebook (Cont. page 4)

June Program

By Glenda Conradi

In June we will have special guest, George Sirven, who is Station Manager of KTBS-TV. In the 12 years he has been there George has created two new startup companies under the KTBS umbrella, LifeWise Cable Media and Medical Media.

He will enlighten us on the upcoming change to all-digital TV, and how it will effect us. You will be able to find out if you will

still be able to watch TV on your present television, and have your questions answered about DTV.

George is also bringing one of the computer experts from KTBS-TV who will give us insight on the KTBS-TV Web site, and show us how to navigate and take advantage of what it has to offer, as well fill us in on how computers are used at the station to keep things running smoothly.

MEETINGS

Thursday June 12, 2008

Thursday July 10, 2008

Podnuh's Bar-B-Q

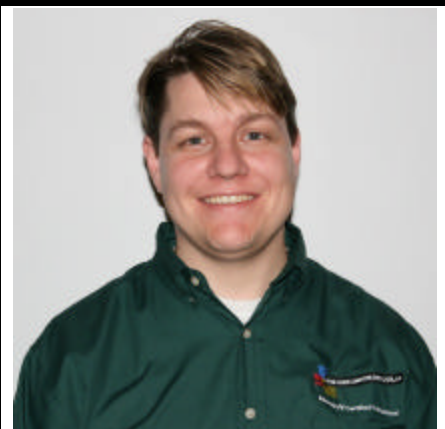
1146 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy
 Shreveport, Louis iana

Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month

7 p.m.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Thanks to Richard Conradi for the May program on keeping our computers running smoothly.

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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~

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. / Nationwide Internet 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 ~**How To Edit Or Remove Sounds**

Would you like to change or remove some of the sounds on your computer?

sounds and select the program and the related event that you want to modify

If so:

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

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

* Double click on Sounds icon

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

* Scroll through the list of event

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

After the usual announcements about the door prizes we started the program early so there would be enough time for questions and answers. The program for the evening was given by Richard Conradi of After Hours Computer Specialists. Richard was accompanied by Mike Parks, one of the owners of After Hours Computer Specialists. Richard gave a presentation about some good procedures to follow so you will be prepared if a disaster should happen to your computer. He gave us advice as to what to do to prepare for the eventual work to be done by a service technician. He suggested storing where you can find them, all your original disks, CD keys for the programs, recording all passwords and logons for mail and other web sites, and other information necessary, if you would need to have the hard drive formatted and all programs reinstalled. This was a very good reminder to backup our computers, including data, as a routine, so this information can be restored if necessary. Richard also, briefly explained to use of Acronis True Image Home 11.0. He explained how you can make an image and restore the same image or just a portion of the image. Richard also reminded us to use "Save As" to insure that we do not over write a file in error. Mike Parks told us about Good Sync, which is a program that can be used, for backup purposes, to sync portable data to your desktop computer to insure you have the same data on both computers and devices. Good sync is a free program available at <http://www.goodsync.com/download.html>. There is also a pro version of this program that has more features.

The door prizes for the month were a 2 GB thumb drive won by Carolyn Franklin, and an AT&T 60 minute phone card won by Thelma Windham. The phone card was donated by Jay Graff.

Remember the next meeting is June 12, 2008.

Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group

GOING PORTABLE

Jay Graff

I recently bought a tiny new laptop to be used primarily for when I traveled. My other laptop is fine, but compared to this new one, is rather bulky. The only problem with the new one is that in addition to the tiny physical size, it has a miniscule 4GB hard drive. It also came with Windows XP (which I chose). As it came out of the box, I had less than half of my hard drive space available. Back in the old days, I probably would have killed for a 4 GB hard drive. I think my first PC had a 100 MB drive and that was considered generous. But with the advent of today's technologies, Everything is bigger and better. Today, if you have anything less than a 500 gigger, you are considered behind the times. But getting back to my new toy, the only thing I plan to do with it is get on line, check my mail when I am away and maybe have a video chat if I can. To that end, it has everything I would need to do those things.....except for the hard drive space. I found the solution in the SD card slot that it has. They talked about adding another 4GB SD card, which would double your hard drive space, but I went even further and found a 16GB SD card. Then after some investigating, found a site called portable apps.com. You can download a suite of programs that can be run from an open platform. This means that they will run from any flash drive, ipod or any other portable device with little or no interference from the main computer. There are a myriad of programs available. They have the usual popular ones like Firefox and Thunderbird, as well as some others that are not as popular but just as useful. They are too numerous to mention here, but suffice it to say, you are not losing that much going portable. I had a big problem because when I booted up, Windows kept telling me that I did not have a current virus checker. I tried to install AVG on it, but it

wanted to install on a local drive. That took a HUGE bite from my tiny hard drive. One of the apps listed in the suite is a virus checker that does not care where it goes. So I uninstalled AVG and put theirs on my SD card and everybody was and is happy. I do not plan to use this computer to do any work. That's why I have my others. But it is nice to know that there are lots of things I can do if I need to. I can write a Word document using one of about three programs they have. I can look at any pictures I may have taken using a photo program. As I mentioned, I can have a video chat using the built in webcam. As I understand it, I could even put something up on the web using one of their FTP clients. The list goes on and on. I could even burn a CD or DVD even though there is no CD drive attached. The number of programs far exceed its capability to execute them. Remember,
www.portableapps.com

GETTING STARTED TIPS

Disabling Automatic Startup Programs

For Windows Vista users:

If you do not want certain programs or applications to run automatically on startup, there's an easy way to disable them.

- * Click Start
- * Type msconfig in the search box
- * Click Continue in the User Account Control to continue
- * Click on the Startup Tab
- * Uncheck any boxes in the "Startup Items" that you wish to disable or click the Disable All button (not recommended)
- * Click OK

If you need to re-enable any of the programs, go through the same process and check the boxes of programs you wish to run automatically on startup.

Door Prizes Winners for May 2008 Meeting



Thelma Windham & Carolyn Franklin

The May door prizes were won by Thelma Windham, a 60 minute AT&T Phone Card and Carolyn Franklin a 2 GB Lexar Jump Drive. All Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group club members in attendance are eligible to win door prizes at the monthly meetings.

Old Habits..... New Beginnings

by Bob Franklin

The majority of Windows users still rely on a seven year old Windows XP and reject the new Vista. Windows XP will be officially retired this month, June 2008. How long can we continue to use XP before it's unusable? Many users will continue to use Windows XP well past the end of life cycle, just as they have done with Windows 98 and ME. As long as software and hardware manufactures still provide products for Windows XP it will survive regardless of the status Microsoft gives it. The problem lies in the fact that hardware and software companies will not continue to support a seven or eight year old operating system that Microsoft has declared end of life.

There may be one ray of hope for Windows XP, in that as of April 2008, Microsoft is extending availability of Windows XP Home Edition for OEMs to install on Ultra Low-Cost PCs. This may help boost support for Windows XP, only time will tell. Why has Microsoft extended the life of XP to Ultra Low-Cost PCs? Simple, these cheap low end PCs will not run Vista and many manufactures have turned to the Linux operating system for these machines. Oops... Microsoft sees this as a threat to their monopoly and takes quick action by

extending the life of Windows XP for these Ultra Low-Cost PCs. Vista just will not run satisfactory on one of these low end machines.

Will Windows Vista be your next operating system? Odds are if you are still a happy Windows XP user, you can just skip over Vista and move to the next Windows in 2009 or 2010. Most likely Windows Vista will never be a number one contender, however it is all going to depend on what Microsoft does with the new Windows 7. Reports are that Windows 7 will have a new touch screen feature.

There is absolutely no need to worry about support for Windows XP, it's still alive and well. Only time will tell, but sooner or later you'll need to upgrade your operating system.... Well maybe not, I hear we still have DOS users.

I don't use Vista as my operating system, however Carolyn uses Vista everyday and it has proven to be much more stable and less prone to malware than XP. Vista requires lots of horsepower, so don't buy an "el cheapo" machine and expect to be happy with Vista. Maybe a meeting discussion is in order as to why so many users have stuck with Windows XP and have not moved to Vista.

(Cont. from page 1)

to write the information on your program serial numbers, and activation codes, that are on the program CD, in and keep it in a safe place. He also talked about the importance of having a backup of everything on your computer and that it is important to have a schedule to back up important files.

Mike told us about Good Sync, a program to backup with and to sync data from one computer to another.



Richard Conradi & Mike Parks

~Web Sites~

The Software Patch

<http://www.softwarepatch.com/tips/index.html>

(This site has tips for fixing common Windows problems in Windows XP.)

Extreme Tech

<http://www.extremetech.com/>

(The seven-year-old site has undergone a major makeover: a new home page, bold new colors, new and updated sections, and tons of fresh ideas.)

FuelMeUp.com/

<http://www.fuelmeup.com/>

(Another site where you can check on gas prices. Find the Cheapest Gas Prices in any zip code for 82,000 gas stations.)

Fonts Fonts Fonts

<http://mrswizard.com/fonts.html>

(This Web site covers such things as using your favorite fonts, viewing the fonts folder, installing new fonts, removing fonts, different uses for different type-styles, special characters and where to find new fonts.)

Babel

http://www.geocities.com/ikind_babel/babel/babel.html

(A Glossary of Computer Oriented Abbreviations and Acronyms. They apply to personal computers, multimedia, communications, programming, networking, etc. You can download BABEL in either TEXT, HTML or PALM Format.)

KTBS Channel 3

<http://www.ktbs.com/>

(KTBS Channel 3 TV Web site)



DID YOU KNOW?

You can make your Desktop Icons Transparent, removing the white boxes the text is in.

Go to control Panel > System, > Advanced > Performance area > Settings button Visual Effects tab "Use drop shadows for icon labels on the Desktop"