



WE DO WINDOWS
THE WINDOW
 COME DO WINDOWS WITH US



**CADDO-BOSSIER
 WINDOWS
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City
 Louisiana

www.shreve.net/~cbwug

Volume 9 No 5

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

May 2007

April Meeting

By Glenda Conradi



Michael Phillips Shows Group A Device to Save Data To

Michael Phillips with Network Services Louisiana gave an outstanding program at our April meeting on “A new approach to backing up your computer” He blended both delightful entertainment and very valuable information that could help us avoid the very unpleasant experience of losing irreplaceable data. He explained how recovering that lost data may prove to be impossible, or at the very least, quite expensive. Michael told us about, and demonstrated, a small, easy to use pro-

gram, Mrrmirror, that you can use to do those backups. Not only does it make backups of your data at super speed, but it is also free. He even left us the files for several versions of the program and suggested that you make weekly back up copies of your data on CDs, or DVDs, depending on the amount of space you need and at the end of the year save one backup CD from each month and shred the rest. You can also make backups to thumb drives or external hard drives.

May Program

By Glenda Conradi

We have had some great guest speakers and very informative and interesting programs the past couple of months and it was decided that we would have an open forum meeting in May so we can go over some of the things we have learned and get answers to questions that have come

up. We want our members’ success stories and the problems they may have encountered. More people seem to be moving up to the Vista operating system so Bernie plans to start including information that can help us get the most out of what it has to offer.

MEETINGS

Thursday May 10, 2007

Thursday June 14, 2007

Podnuh’s Bar-B-Que

1146 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy
 Shreveport, Louisiana

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Ark-La-Tex Computer Sheaux



The last Ark-La-Tex Computer-Sheaux was held November 11, 2006. Over \$160,000.00 was donated to the Shriners Hospital for Children since July 1994 when it was founded.

www.computersheaux.org

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THE WINDOW
Published by
Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group
Member of APCUG

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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 editor 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.

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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~**Disable Error Reporting**

Whenever a program crashes, whether it's a Microsoft application, a component of Windows, or a third-party application, a window appears, prompting you to send a "report" to Microsoft.

You can stop Windows from asking if you want to send a report to Microsoft whenever a program crashes.

Here's how to disable this feature,

either completely or selectively:

* Open System in the Control Panel (or right-click on the My Computer icon and select Properties.

* Choose the Advanced tab, and click Error Reporting.

* You can disable error reporting entirely here, or enable it selectively for certain programs. Click Ok when you're done.

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

The meeting started with the usual introductions of new members and visitors. Jerry Jones and Setsuko Graff joined. Charlie Byrd gave the Treasurers report and Glenda gave the usual announcements. Our program for this month was both informative and very entertaining. The presentation by Michael Phillips on the subject of backing up your computer and keeping your data safe was a good wakeup call as to what can happen if a hard drive fails. His remark was that the loss of your personal files and data can make a grown man cry and that to keep from doing business with a very expensive company that restores data from dying or dead hard drives can be very expensive and is sometimes impossible. He stated the best way to protect your data is to create an archive or, in other words, make a backup copy of your documents and files. He suggested the use of a thumb drive, external hard drive, CD or DVD as a place to store the archive you create. Michael demonstrated the program My Mirror showing how the program works and how to set it up to perform this task automatically. Michael also answered questions from the group about the program and stated that he had used it just yesterday in Windows Vista.

The door prize winners for this month were: Charles Smith picked the Microsoft Blogging book and Rick LaCour won the Microsoft Stress Ball.

I ask anyone that has a subject in mind for a program, or a person that would be interested in providing a program to contact glenda@conradi.com with information so we can follow up and hopefully provide interesting and informative content to our upcoming programs.

Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group.

Success At Last

Jay Graff

We are all aware that almost everything that has to do with Windows is connected in one way or another. In other words, what you do with or for one program usually has some impact on another. I had no idea how true this was until recently. A few days ago I got my Microsoft updates and a couple of them installed OK, but the majority failed. One was for Excel, which I don't use anyway, and another was for Outlook, which I also don't use. So I applied the old "OUTTA SIGHT-OUTTA MIND" logic and just unchecked them. I got another notice for some updates a few days later and they too failed. Then I found a few minutes to check the ones that failed and while reading the possible causes and solutions, found one that suggested I try a command line with the following: *sc qc ose*. After typing that in and running, a DOS window opened and closed as fast as the blink of an eye. Not much help there. They went further to say that if whatever I was checking said it was disabled to type this in; *sc config ose start= demand*. I figured at this point that I had nothing to lose, so I tried it, and after it was finished, tried my updates again and this time they took. I was feeling pretty brave at this point, so I went back and restored all of the updates that I could not install and was able to install them as well. Now I smelled blood and decided to go for broke....but first some background. About three or 4 months ago I had tried to install IE7 and I kept getting installation failure messages. I went through a long, hard (and I might add, losing) battle with Microsoft, having many, many sessions of telephone tag. I started out at the most basic level of support and worked my way up to the very highest. They all started out really optimistic, but the all just fell along the wayside. Their answer seemed to be to gut my computer of all programs, yet still failing. Finally I called it quits and

had resigned myself to being the only person on earth that did not have IE7. Now, fast forward to the present. After having so much success with the updates, I threw all caution to the wind and after taking a deep breath, tried IE7 one more time. I was prepared for that dreaded message that said it could not be installed. I sat here watching it wondering if this was where it failed last time. Then after awhile, it said "installation finalizing" I had been there before and was ready for failure, but to my great surprise and astonishment, it came up and said that IE7 was installed. I could not believe my eyes. I rebooted and sure enough, it was still there. The next time I booted in the morning, there were a couple of updates that also took. This information was in the MS Knowledge Base and I just wonder why all of the geniuses at Microsoft could not figure this out. I would like to take credit, but as usual, it was purely accidental.

GETTING STARTED WITH XP

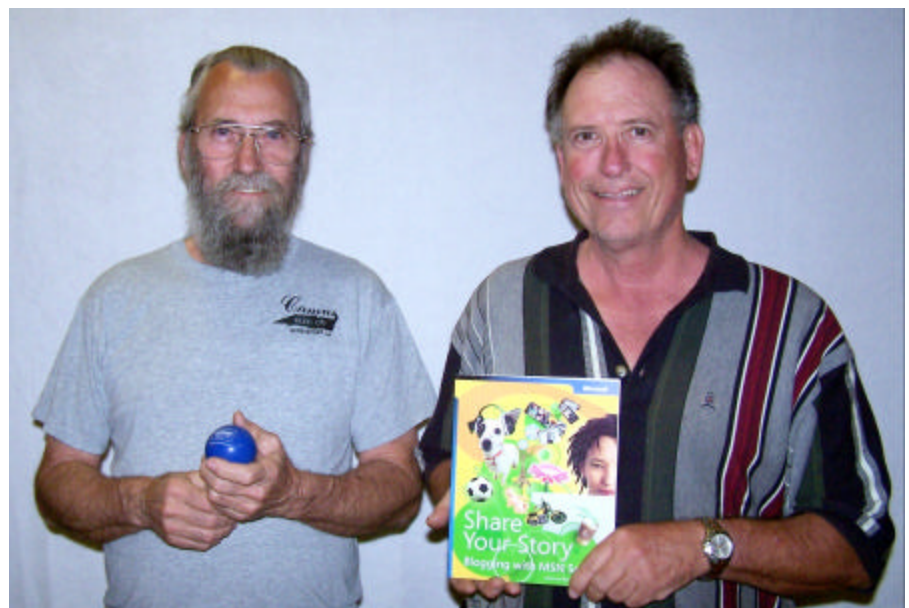
Turn Off Thumbnail View

Windows XP, by default, will show the thumbnails view of certain folders, whether you want it to or not. Even if you choose Details (or some other view) as your default by going to Tools -> Folder Options -> View tab and click Apply to All Folders, Explorer may still revert back to the Thumbnails view. It will revert to the Thumbnail view for any folder in which it finds the THUMBS.DB file; you can you delete this file.

The problem is that Windows seems to repeatedly recreate the THUMBS.DB file automatically. There is a way to stop this from happening:

1. In Explorer, go to Tools -> Folder Options or open the Folder Options icon in the Control Panel.
2. Choose the View tab, and turn off the Do not cache thumbnails option.
3. Click Ok.

Door Prizes Winners for April 2007 Meeting



Rick LaCour and Charles Smith

The April door prizes were a won by Rick LaCour, a Microsoft Stress Ball and Charles Smith, a Blogging With MSN book.

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

LCD Monitor Maintenance

By David M. Huckabee

For those of you that have laptop computer or an LCD monitor on your desktop computer there are a few facts that you may or may not know about their maintenance.

The LCD screen is one of the most expensive components of your notebook or desktop computer and they're very sensitive to dust and fingerprints.

Unlike the standard CRT monitors with glass screens, you are not advised to clean an LCD monitor by wiping it with a piece of dry lint-free cloth since the sensitive display is likely to get scratches from dust particles. Some of the manufacturers send a nice piece of cloth with the screen device (I guess they are trying to sell more of them).

So how do you clean an LCD monitor screen without buying any of those expensive LCD monitor cleaner solutions or wipes available in the market? Here are some proper methods and precautions to clean the monitor (should apply to HDTV's, projection TVs and Plasma TVs as well).

Turn the monitor off or set the background to black and hide all the desktop icons and minimize the open windows. This will easily help you identify the dirty areas of the monitor. Second, you need to find a piece of soft cotton cloth, don't try tissue papers, toilet rolls or even bath towels as the fabric will scratch your screen permanently (like sandpaper or utensil scrubbers).

To prepare a solution for cleaning LCD monitors, you will need deionized or distilled water and vinegar - don't use tap water or mineral water as they could leave white marks on the screen because of the dissolved salts. Dilute the vinegar with distilled water [1:1] and spray this liquid on the cloth. Never ever spray liquid directly onto the LCD screen. Moisten the cloth with this home made LCD cleaner and gently move the wet cloth in just one direction - from top to bot-

tom. Use very light pressure. **Caution:** Be sure that the LCD screen is dry before closing it or using the computer. Do not use any solutions that contain Acetone, ethyl alcohol, toluene, ethyl alcohol, or ammonia. DO NOT USE window cleaner. Never touch the LCD screen with your fingers as this can cause the pixels to burn out.

After the screen is clean, you may want to know if there are any "Dead Pixels" on the screen. LCD screens are the most likely component to contain noticeable flaws in the form of the dreaded dead pixels. There are 3.9 million sub-pixels (red, green and blue) on a standard 1280x1024 resolution LCD monitor, and each of these is a transistor. Occasionally these individual transistors responsible for carrying current to a pixel will either short out or remain open resulting in what is called a dead pixel. Dead pixels are rare and largely go unnoticed by the user. A "lit" pixel is one that appears as one of several randomly placed white, red, blue or green pixel elements on a dark background, or you may have a "missing" pixel which shows up as a black dot on a light colored background.

There is a nice - free utility that can be used to check the LCD monitor or plasma display for dead pixels. It displays the faulty pixels in a color different than the background color. "Dead Pixel Locator" is available at: www.astris.com/dpl/. This utility can be used before cleaning the screen. Notebook manufacturers have their own policy on how many dead pixels warrant a return and replacement. Dell considers a screen defective only if it has six or more faulty pixels. The problem is most people are not aware of this policy before they get their notebook and falsely assume that one dead pixel is good enough to ask for a replacement, but this is generally not the case.

Ok guys clean it up and keep it clean.

~Web Sites~

Annoyances.org

<http://www.annoyances.org/>
(Annoyances.org claims to be the most complete collection of information assembled for and by actual users of Microsoft Windows.)

Malektips

<http://malektips.com/>
(Free Computer and Technology Help ... over 3,160 Tips to help you Save Time and Get More Enjoyment out of Computers, Digital Cameras, and Technology.)

Firefox Tips

<http://www.mozilla.org/support/firefox/tips>
(Various tips and tricks for Firefox.)

Windows About .com

<http://windows.about.com/>
(Windows - Tutorials, Tips, Help, and Reviews for Microsoft Windows. Learn how to use and customize your Microsoft Windows computer with original tutorials, tips, help, advice, and more.)

Windows XP Tips & Tricks

<http://www.windows-help-central.com/>
(Take advantage of powerful Windows XP tips and tricks and free download information.)

Google Tip: Calculate

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,2114576,00.asp>
(Using GOOGLE you can type in an equation or math question and it will calculate mathematical equations right from the search box.)



DID YOU KNOW?

When you use the forward slash / in a command it gives instructions to search for something that is not on your computer but somewhere else such as the Internet.

When you use the back slash \ in a command then the instructions are to search for something on your computer, such as a hard drive.