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**CADDO-BOSSIER
 WINDOWS
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City
 Louisiana

Volume 13 No 5

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

May, 2011

April Meeting



Joe Blasé Sharing Information With The Group

The April program was given by Bernie Conradi. He started out by giving us information about the latest updates, and some malware that is circulating called LizaMoon.

Joe Blase gave a follow up to the group on a demo CD he picked

up that gave the impression that there was a virus on his computer. It turned out not to be a virus.

For the program Bernie shared some tips to improve your wireless network and saving files to a CD in Windows 7. There was also a question and answer session.

MEETINGS

Thursday May 12, 2011

Thursday June 9, 2011

Podnuh's Bar-B-Q

1146 Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy

Shreveport, Louisiana

Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month

7 p.m.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Bernie Conradi

Thanks to Bernie Conradi for presenting the April program and answering questions.

May Program

Our good friend Michael Phillips, with Network Services Louisiana, will be returning to give the May 12 program. When he was here in November several members asked him if he would come back and do a program on using your computer to hook up several televisions in different

rooms, so he said he plans to give a program on media extender and sharing media on a home network. Michael is an excellent speaker and is extremely knowledgeable in the field of computers and computer related technology and programs. He is always ready to answer your questions.

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THE WINDOW

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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~

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.

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

~A QUICK TIP~

Windows' Snipping Tool

If you would like to save an image of what's on your computer screen you can press the PrtScn key on your keyboard to copy the entire screen of the active window to your computer's clipboard. Then you can paste it into another program. In Windows 7 and some versions of Vista you can capture a specific area of the screen, click the *Start* button, type **snip**, and then click *Snipping Tool*. The program will start "activated," and you can start snipping. Click and drag a box around the area of the screen you want to save. Release the mouse button and captured area will appear in Snipping Tool window.

President's Page



Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group April Meeting

The meeting this month had smaller than usual attendance with only 16 people. Of course that makes better chances to win a door prize. Charlie gave the Treasurers report and we had the usual monthly announcements. We told about the latest Windows updates that were just released on April 12, 2011. There were at least 22 updates to Windows that you need to be sure that you install on your computer. These updates are critical with regard to security of your operating system. Fred Kocher asked the question about the difference between DVD+R and DVD-R. It was determined that with the latest players and recorders that are multi format, it really does not make much difference. Kristie Sanders told us about a web site that we looked at called superantispyware.com. This is a good place to get software to scan your computer if you are having spyware problems. Joe Blase gave us an update on his story about the demo disc that he got at a local store. This month we looked at an item from Fred Langa describing his encounter with the malware called "LizaMoon". He described how to recognize it and what to do if you see it and how to get rid of it. We then provided tips on how to improve your wireless network in your home. Some of the tips were to relocate the router to a central location in the house, use a repeater or use a high gain antenna. We next covered the correct procedure of writing data to a CD using the Windows operating system. We covered this procedure step by step with instructions for each step. Windows has this procedure well covered without having any other CD writing software. The last item on the agenda was a quick review of the free program called "Speccy". This little program tells you all you want to know about your computer and its components. The door prize winners this month were: Rick LaCour winning an eight gig thumb drive and Phillip Sanders winning a 50 pack of DVD+R disks. Look forward to seeing you next month on May 12, 2011.
 Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group.

Cookie Monsters

by Jay Graff

A few days ago I had a telephone conversation with a friend of mine. He was telling me all about this new program that he wanted to try out. He didn't tell me too much about the program, but he did mention that he decided not to put it on his computer. I started to ask him the reason, and he explained that (1) they asked for his email address and (2) during the installation, he got a screen informing him that the program used "cookies" and they were asking his permission. It got me to thinking that most folks are terrified over cookies. If you look at what they are and what they do, they are not so scary. As I understand it, a cookie is nothing more than a small program that performs a specific function. The most obvious is so they don't have to go back and ask you the same question to get to a desired result over and over. I guess they could call them something else so they don't make people afraid, but are they really that bad? I decided to check and see. One of my Spyware programs checks for exactly that. I have two computers, so the results were different, but on one, I found out that it found a total 1583 cookies on that computer (the other showed 733, but that one is newer) Out of these 1583, it found only 16 that were classified as Spy Cookies (along with about 53 traces). I put them in the quarantine folder but even though it was given an ominous classification, I found out that the risk they determined them to be was minimal at best. I had some actual viruses in that folder that they called High Risk. Needless to say, I emptied the quarantine folder, but the next time I do a scan, they will show up again. I think it's time to put this in proper perspective. Think of it as if you

had dust mites. If you ever see an enlarged picture of one, it looks terrible. In actuality they are not as scary as they look. The only way you can rid yourself of them is to either get rid of all your skin (they feed on dead skin) or walk around with a plastic bag covering 100% of you. The same principle applies to cookies. There are only a few ways you can keep from getting them. You can either never get on the internet, or scan your computer every day and get rid of them as you find them, which is not very practical. The reality is that if you do any internet surfing, you are going to wind up with them. As I mentioned before I had 16 out of 1583 reported. Even my spyware program did not seem too concerned about them, so the way I see it, why should I? I have real threats that are much more dangerous to worry about. Stop worrying and enjoy computing again.

GETTING STARTED TIPS

Pin It To Quick Launch Toolbar

When you have special programs or utilities pinned to the Quick Launch tool bar they are easy to locate and you can open them with one click.

If you use the character map it is really handy to pin it to the Quick Launch toolbar. While you are working in a program and need a special character you can get to it with a click.

In XP there are a few easy steps to take.

1. Click *Start, All Programs, Accessories, System Tools*.
2. You'll see Character Map in that menu. Right-click and hold the icon, then drag it down to the Quick Launch toolbar and release it.
3. Choose *Copy here* from the menu that appears.

If you left-click and drag the icon that will move it out of the System Tools menu. This way, you've got a copy of the shortcut in both places.

In Windows 7 it is really simple, just click *Start*, start typing the word Character, or the name of the program or utility you want and when it appears in the menu, drag it down to the Toolbar.

Door Prize Winners for April 2011 Meeting



Phillip Sanders & Rick LaCour

The April door prizes were won by Rick LaCour, an Eight GB Thumb Drive and Phillip Sanders, a 50 Pack of CDs. All Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group club current members, in attendance, are eligible to win door prizes at the monthly meetings.

Powermat

By George Harding, Treasurer, Tucson Computer Society, AZ

You probably carry at least one portable device, a mobile phone. To keep it charged, you need a charger for a home outlet or one for the car. When you travel, either locally or away from home, you must remember to carry one or both of these chargers. It's cumbersome, but that's the price of a mobile device.

Or maybe not! Powermat has a solution for any of your mobile devices, and it doesn't require a charging cord. How do they do this? You charge a Powermat unit, then carry it with you wherever you might be.

Just set your mobile device on one of the panels of the Powermat and your device is charged wirelessly by induction. What does that mean? You don't need to know. It just works.

I received a Powermat for evaluation. It is a small 3" X 3" tri-fold device. It unfolds into three connected panels, two of which are charging panels. The third section is the storage battery that allows the device to be used wirelessly.

You first charge the Powermat with a wall outlet. Then fit your mobile phone or other device with a receiver tailored for your specific type of device. Then simply place the mobile device on the Powermat. You'll hear a beep to indicate that connection is made and that your mobile device is charging. Another beep sounds when your device is removed.

The tri-fold Powermat I received is one of several styles available. Some are smaller, some come with a Power Cube, a unit that connects to your mobile device and is what is placed on the Powermat.

I tried out my wife's Blackberry on the Powermat. The unit comes with a Power Cube which you connect to the Blackberry, then place it on the Powermat to charge. The Power Cube is about one and a half inches square and has a white, smooth surface.

One corner of it has a wire attached with a connector with adaptable heads for almost any receptacle available today.

The wire fits neatly into a groove around the edge of the Power Cube when not in use.

I also received a receiver for my iPhone. A receiver is a shell into which the iPhone fits. It has a compatible plug in its base and a unit on its back similar in function to a Power in function to a Power Cube. Once the iPhone is in the receiver, you need only place it on the Powermat to charge it.

Powermat announced at CES an agreement that will provide wireless charging capabilities in airports, through the installation of Powermat units in terminal seating. Airports are difficult environments in which to obtain recharges. This solution will benefit the many travelers with mobile devices that need charging in an airport. In addition, Powermat will be working with GM to incorporate in their cars, starting with the Chevy Volt, a charging solution for most mobile devices, without the use of wires.

About: Powermat
Vendor: Powermat
www.powermat.com

~Web Sites~

Windows Help & How-to

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/help>

(Learn how to get the most out of Windows 7. Find all the help you'll need for Windows Vista. Browse for the latest help for your version of Internet Explorer. Get help for Windows Live—Photo Gallery, Messenger, Hotmail, and more. Search for help with setting up and working with your Windows phone.)

Crossword Puzzles

<http://www.boatloadpuzzles.com/playcrossword>

(Solve Free Boatload of Crosswords™ Puzzles Online. Boatload of Crosswords is the world's largest supply of crossword puzzles. Solve Boatload of Crosswords' 40,000 free online crossword puzzles.)

Use Windows XP Mode in Windows 7

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows7/install-and-use-windows-xp-mode-in-windows-7>

(Using Windows XP Mode, you can run programs that were designed for Windows XP on computers running Windows 7 Professional, Enterprise, or Ultimate editions.)

Jigsaw Puzzles

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

(How much time do you have? JigZone is an online Jigsaw Puzzle where you choose the level of difficulty from a simple 6 piece cut to a challenging 247 piece cut. A new puzzle of the day every day.)



DID YOU KNOW?

You can right-click on a taskbar icon to view a Jump List of the most recently accessed files in that program. You can also access them by holding the left mouse button and dragging upwards. If you're using a laptop touchpad or a touch screen, this is convenient because you do not have to click any button to access a context menu.