



WE DO WINDOWS
THE WINDOW
 COME DO WINDOWS WITH US



**CADDO-BOSSIER
 WINDOWS
 USER GROUP**

Shreveport – Bossier City
 Louisiana

www.shreve.net/~cbwug

Volume 7 No 9

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

September 2005

August Meeting

By Glenda Conradi



Sean Grimes

Sean Grimes, with Fix My PC in Shreveport, was our guest speaker for the month of August. Among other things, he demonstrated three ways to get to My Documents, showed us the folders in XP starting with the document setting folder area where you have a folder for each user on the system, the program files directory and some of the folders you find there. Sean said the Windows Update folder was probably one of the best features you will

find on Windows XP because it makes it so much easier to do updates. Sean told us he thought the Windows Directory was the most important folder; it is where the core of Windows XP files are stored.

Sean assisted with the questions and answer session after the program and provided some much needed help to solve an annoying problem one of the members was having with his computer.

September Program

By Glenda Conradi

C-B WUG member, Wayne Ebert, will be our speaker at the September meeting. He plans to give us some insight to the free program Open Office and will bring a few CDs with the program on it for those who might like to try it.

Wayne will also tell us about some shortcuts for moving faster in

XP and include some Internet Explorer shortcuts as well. He has information to share on free CD/DVD burning software that can be downloaded from the internet.

There will be time set aside for your questions, problems and solutions.

Please join us & bring a guest.

MEETINGS

Thursday September 8, 2005

Thursday October 13, 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

~ Contents ~

August Meeting1
 September Program1
 Sheaux Dates1
 Club Information2
 Thank You2
 Quick Tip.....2
 President's Page2
 The Latest on DVDs3
 Getting Started With XP3
 Door Prize Winners3
 The Wireless Network Security4
 Web Sites4
 Did You Know?4

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

Editor

Glenda Conradi (glenda@conradi.com)

Co-Editor

Jay Graff (jay@jayGraff.com)

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 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.

C-B WUG's Web Address
www.shreve.net/~cbwug

Club Officers

President Bernie Conradi
(bernie@conradi.com)

Vice-President Wayne Ebert
(CBWUG@shreve.net)

Secretary Glenda Conradi
(glenda@conradi.com)

Treasurer Charlie Byrd
(cbyrd22@cox.net)

Board Members at Large

David Huckabee
(dhuckabee@msn.com)

~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 ~**Specify your Default Printer**

The computer will print to the printer that is set as the default printer when you choose Print from the File menu on most applications. When you install a new printer, the old one is still listed as the default printer and the computer will try to print to the old printer.

You can change or specify your Default Printer:

1. Go to Start/ Control Panel and double-click on Printers and Faxes.
2. Right-click on the desired printer and select Set as Default Printer. A checkmark will appear next to the printer icon.

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

We started the meeting with the usual announcements about the latest Windows updates and the upcoming ComputerSheaux. Then we moved to the program which was given by Sean Grimes who works for "Fix My PC". Sean gave us a briefing on the Windows file system and how it is organized and what files are located in some of the folders. He explained the My Documents folder and how the files are actually located in three different folders and they are actually the same files but show up in three different locations when viewing them with Windows Explorer. Sean also helped us with the question and answer session. Ron Gourley presented Sean with an unusual problem having to do with an extra information bar that was located on the left side of his desktop and would not go away and he could not find a preference or option to delete it or change it. Sean worked on Ron's computer for quite a while during the remaining questions and eventually found a way to make the information bar disappear and then, after restarting the computer a couple of times, determined that it was definitely gone for good. He also recommended that Ron run AVG Housecall and a couple of spyware programs on his computer to make sure he did not have a virus or some kind of spyware on his machine. We also talked about the Acronis backup program and those people who live in Bossier City having trouble with Cox Cable briefly being interrupted while on line.

Carol White told us about free instruction lessons you can sign up for at CNet.com. She stated that she had taken a Windows XP session. Wayne informed us of a web site which gives instructions for building a bootable disk that can be run if your computer will not boot. The program that you create on a CD is called Bart PE. The web site is <http://www.nu2.nu/bootcd/>. I have not tried making this disk so I do not have any first hand information as to how it is done. The door prizes for the evening were a book called "Hardcore Windows XP" donated by David Huckabee won by John Hardin and a can of air to clean the computer won by David Huckabee.

Bernie Conradi, President Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group

The Latest on DVDs

by Bob Elgines

The DVD world is going crazy. The price range is from \$59 to \$130 well within most of our budgets. DVD blanks are down to 50 cents a piece, almost as cheap as CDs. The top four recorder manufacturers are Plextor, Toshiba, Pacific Digital, and Memorex.

Speed is up to 16X, which is max on the outer part of the disk, but only 8X blanks are readily available.

Dual layer (8.5 GB of data space) is labeled as the latest big deal, but is it really? These disks are hard to manufacture and are very expensive. The most important thing is, what will they play in? Well not much of anything. Most DVD players will not recognize the format and neither will your older recorders. So I don't look for this to do anyone much good even in the future.

What is in the future (next year)? The digital world has still been undecided on DVD-R and DVD+R formats, so most of your recorders will do both. Now we come to the future of introducing two new formats named "HD-DVD" and "Blu-ray". These new formats have been developed to use the new blue-laser, where has, they have been using the red-laser in our present recorders. Red laser single level DVDs have 4.7 GB of capacity where the Blue-laser single layer DVDs will have a capacity of 15 (HD-DVD format) to 25 GB (Blu-ray format) at present.

A HD (High Definition) two hour movie uses about 17.4 GB with out max compression. The compression schemes (MPEG-2, MPEG4, etc.) will be the same for both, so there will be no big difference in playback quality. Here we go again, new DVD players will be needed and this reminds us of the old video tape war on formats "Beta" and "VHS". Remember VHS won out due to more recording time and

lower costs. Will this be true of the two blue-laser formats? Only time will tell.

These Blue-laser recorders and players will be coming out near the end of this year or the start of next year, but I think we are going to have to wait and see if they can decide on a format for the blue-laser.

Editors note:

This article, written by Bob Elgines, Colorado River Computer Club Editor, Lake Havasu, AZ, is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group is a member.

GETTING STARTED WITH XP

Running Older Programs in XP

In Windows XP you can set compatibility properties manually so that a program runs in a different mode, such as Windows 95, or in a different display or resolution setting in order to run older programs. To set the compatibility properties for a program:

1. Right-click the executable or the program shortcut to the executable, and then click Properties.
2. Select the Run this program in compatibility mode check box.
3. From the list, select an operating system that the program runs in comfortably.
4. If necessary change the display settings and/or resolution, or disable the Windows XP visual themes.

Run the program again when you're finished changing the settings. Adjust the compatibility settings again if the program is still not running smoothly.

Door Prizes Winners for August 2005 Meeting



David Huckabee and Dr. John Hardin

The August Door prizes were won by and won by David Huckabee, a can of Endust Duster and Dr. John Hardin, a Hardcore Windows XP book. All Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group club members in attendance are eligible to win door prizes at the monthly meetings.

The Wireless Network Security

By David M. Huckabee

More people have a network in their home or small business to connect just a few computers. A lot have opted to run wires (Ethernet cable) between their computers and their router and Internet modem. Others have decided on wireless connections. With the wired connection, there is little worry about others tapping into their network and "stealing" their information. The best solutions, in this case, are to run a good firewall, anti-virus software, and a good anti-spyware program. A lot of people that use a wireless connection need to use these safeguards and need to equip their network with hardware to protect the network and make it more secure. The wireless network needs a lot of preparation before "going on the air." You could go for the cheapest hardware and as the old phrase goes, "You get what you pay for." The most important thing in the wireless network that makes everything work is the wireless router or access point. Make sure that the "firmware" can be upgraded. The "firmware" is the program that is internal to that hardware that actually runs the hardware. Over time there are flaws or technology upgrades that need to be addressed or changed and you wouldn't want to be required to buy a new hardware item each time it needs to be upgraded. This upgrade should be accomplished by a download from the Internet. When you buy the wireless router or access point, be sure to buy network interface cards for the computers that you want to connect wirelessly, that will work with them. It would be a shame to pay extra money on a feature that will not work with the other items on the network.

Now on to the security portion of this article, when setting up the wireless network:

Change the administrator name and password on the router.

If you leave it with the default settings, just about any hacker can find a way into the router to change your settings.

Turn on compatible encryption.

Encryption technology scrambles messages sent over wireless networks so that they cannot be easily read by humans. There are several encryption methods, so select the strongest form that is compatible with all wireless devices on the network. WEP (Wired Equivalent Privacy) is the weakest form of encryption and WPA (Wi-Fi Protected Access) is the most secure.

Change the default SSID (Service Set Identifier).

The SSID is the unique identifier of that wireless network, so all devices that connect wirelessly to the network must have the same SSID.

Enable MAC address (Media Access Control address) filtering.

Each piece of hardware that attaches to a network has a unique number, so if you filter the MAC address you have some control over what connects and what does not connect. This can be found for the network interface card that is in your computer by going to Start, Run, type in `cmd`, OK, type in `ipconfig /all`. The 12 character physical address is your unique MAC address.

Disable SSID broadcast.

The wireless access point or router typically broadcasts the SSID over the air at regular intervals. If you know the SSID you just changed previously, you will be able to connect.

Assign static IP Addresses.

DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) lets your router assign an IP Address for each member of the network. If you control the number by assigning a static IP Address to each member of the network, you also control who gets access to the network.

Although there is really no way to keep the dedicated hacker out of your wireless network, there are ways to slow them down. These tips will slow them down; the easiest way to keep them out is to turn the wireless router OFF when it is not used for extended periods.

~Web Sites~

SpywareData

<http://www.spywaredata.com/>
(Spyware and adware removal resources)

The Why Files

<http://www.whyfiles.org/>
(Part of the National Institute for Science Education. To help us understand the science of daily life. Many stories cover topics that have been in the news.)

National Weather Service

<http://weather.gov/>
(Provides warnings and forecasts, Graphical forecasts, National maps, Radar, Rivers, Air quality & Satellite; also some photos of the hurricane disaster areas.)

Hurricane Katrina Base Maps

<http://ngs.woc.noaa.gov/katrina/KATRINA0000.HTM>
(This site contains many satellite photos that include Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama after hurricane Katrina passed through. Click in the boxes to see the photos of the area and click on the photos to zoom in closer.)

Windows XP Tips

<http://www.tipsdr.com/windows-xp-tips.html>
(Some information, tips and solutions for Windows XP. There are a lot of tips here that may be viewed by scrolling down the page. Additional pages of tips are made available by clicking on them in the left column on the page.)



DID YOU KNOW?

An on-screen keyboard is built into Windows XP. It can be useful if you have mobility impairments, if you are using a tablet PC, or if your keyboard goes down. To access the keyboard, go to Start, then click Run, and type `osk`. The keyboard opens on your computer screen.

You may minimize the keyboard when you are not using it.