



WE DO WINDOWS

The Window

COME DO WINDOWS WITH US !!

www.shreveport.com/cbwug



Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group

Caddo-Bossier, Louisiana

Volume #1

Caddo-Bossier Windows User Group Newsletter

March, 1999

President: Bernie Conradi (bernie@conradi.com)

Secretary: Glenda Conradi (glenda@conradi.com)

Vice President: Wayne Ebert (CBWUG@ark-la-tex.com)

Treasurer: Kathleen Mangum

Program Director: Mark Reeves (markcr@msn.com)

CADDO-BOSSIER WINDOWS USERS GROUP

Meeting February 11, 1999
by *Bernie Conradi*

Our meeting started at 7 PM with a very good group in attendance despite the rather rainy weather. I want to thank all those that braved the weather to attend. We started the meeting with a short business meeting. Tyson Kolb and Julious Windham attended the meeting this evening as visitors. Jim Wertz was also a first time attendee and joined our group. Everyone welcome Jim to our group. Wayne Ebert and Jay Graff are putting together a newsletter for the group and invite everyone to submit articles to them at their email addresses and we are going to start out with a printed version of the newsletter which will be handed out at the next meeting and then we will progress to a version on our web page that everyone can read and download. Also, during the time we are putting out a printed version, you will be able to receive a PDF version from Wayne or Jay by sending them an email and requesting it. Glenda made an announcement about the upcoming ComputerSheaux on February 27, 1999. She also had flyers for anyone that wanted to hand them out or get them posted in a

good location for all to see. The next portion of the meeting was our Question and Answer Session. We had numerous questions relating to the dial up networking, which drive the computer boots from, bugs in some modems that have the Rockwell chip set, virus program procedures and Real Player comparisons from the free version to the pay for version. Mark Reeves our Program Director was out of town, so I presented a program was on tips for keeping your computer safe and making it run smoother. These tips included backing up your system or data files, running scandisk and defrag, having a virus program, preparing a boot disk, proper settings, in the Systems Properties, Performance Tab, using a surge protector and a lot of general discussion on these subjects. We also had some Windows 98 Tips, which were handouts for people interested in some quick tidbits of information about Windows 98. Remember our next meeting is on March 25, 1999 at 7 PM at Minogue, Marshall and Associates Tax Services on the Shreveport-Barksdale Highway, across from Haverty's Furniture Store. See you then.

Bernie Conradi, President CBWUG

Report to the membership

Bernie Conradi
President

On 28 December 1998, the Caddo-Bossier Windows Users Group received the Computer that was promised to us by IDT WinChip. It was received by Federal Express.

The computer consists of the following:
IDT Winchip C6 CPU
225 MHz processor speed
ATREND Model IDT 225
Motherboard
32 MB PC100 memory
4.3 Gig Western Digital Harddrive
36X CDROM
1.44 Floppy Drive
Creative Labs AGP Banshee 3d
Blaster Video Card w/16MB
Graphics Memory
ESS Sound Card
Parallel Port
Mitsumi 2 button Mouse
104 Key Keyboard w/Windows
Keys
Windows 98 Installed
IDT estimated retail price for this system is \$675.00

I have plugged in the computer and tried it out to make sure it works.

It works just fine. The computer is going to be kept by Wayne Ebert, our Vice President. He is going to bring it to each meeting. He is also agreed to do our newsletter on this machine. We have installed Office 2000 on the machine. That way the group can see what the new program looks like. We have also installed WinZip, Netscape 4.5, added a PDF printer driver and hope to get Publisher 98, which we plan to do the newsletter on, installed soon. We now have a computer to use at our meetings for our presentations and programs.

We all need to thank Eric Schwertzel and Mike Bruzzone of IDT (an email to him would be nice. His email address is: eric.schwertzel@idt.com and campmktg@aol.com for this review system. Our User Group needs to do a review of the system and provide it to IDT. This review will also be posted in our newsletter.

Bernie Conradi, President CBWUG

Who's Got A Notepad?

by Jay Graff

I've mentioned before that I am basically a very lazy person. But I take comfort in the belief that many of the world's greatest discoveries were made by people such as myself....people looking for a shortcut, a way to do something that requires less effort than the "conventional" way.

Which is a sneaky way to get to the subject of this article. I use Notepad a lot when I want to write something small and/or for my own use. Sure, I have Word and it's great when I want to write a letter or another fancy document. But Suppose I want to jot down the registration number of a program; one maybe two lines tops. Using Word would be like using a

mortar to kill a fly.

Ergo, Notepad! It's small and definitely has no frills, it's kind of like a blank piece of paper that you jot down notes on. (Actually, this whole article is done in Notepad, since I intend to cut and paste later)

I've been using this program for a long time and I've thought of a way to make it more available. This is what I would like to share with you.

Let me tell you the way I used to use it. When I had something I wanted to put in NP, I would copy the text using the EDIT/copy command, or CTRL-C. Then I would open up Windows Explorer and find any file (preferably a small one) that had a .txt extension. I would open it up, do a CTR-A (or Edit/Select All) and delete the text inside. Then I would past the text I had previously copied into it and saved it as whatever I wanted to call it and to wherever I wanted.

But I got to thinking, there must be an easier way. I opened a blank Notepad document and saved it as NOTES on my desktop. You could call it anything you want. Now when I have something I want to save as a NP item, I just highlight the text and copy (CTRL-C), minimize the application I am working in, open my blank NP, do a quick CTRL-V, and there it is.

One word of caution, when you are ready to save what you just pasted, be sure to do a SAVE AS from the file menu. That way, it will create a new NP file for you. If you forget to specify a directory on the save as, that's OK, your file will still be there on your desktop with the name you just saved it as.

I am using a program called Notepad+ which replaces the Windows version, but the original works just fine. It may not look too pretty, but it definitely serves the purpose.

Happy Note Padding

Where did that come from? The answer is "The Internet".

by Wayne Ebert

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reports that 87% of the online retail web sites it sampled collected personal data from consumers who visited, 13% had notices of their information gathering practices. Only 2% had a privacy policy. Make sure the privacy policy is clearly stated by any company site you visit. If you don't see one, limit the personal information you divulge.

So, "Where's the beef?" You may or may not have a "Beef" on your private data that is available on the internet. Before you leap in and look at how much is known about you on the internet, let's not unintentionally add to what is there. Use the Anonymizer at www.anonymizer.com/surf_free.shtml to establish a proxy server that acts as a buffer between you and the Web pages you seek. You view a site normally, but the site sees only the proxy's address. Type www.rickman.com/finger.html into the Anonymizer and click Go. It may take about 30 seconds to go the site incognito, however just enter your e-mail address in the Search field to see what information is available on you. If you would like a second opinion you could enter the following address on the Anonymizer screen: www.cs.indiana.edu:800/finger/gateway and enter your e-mail address. What you see is what anyone who wants to do a search on you/your e-mail address

will see.

Should you want to delete or change the information you have to check with your Internet Service Provider (ISP) for instructions. Seldom is the source of the data provided, but your ISP is a good place to start. Next would be the Web sites where additional information – your age, occupation, hobbies, yearly income are requested. There may be federal intervention if the FTC does not find major improvements in privacy policies in it's sampling at the start of the new year (1999).

You can go incognito to a site by typing anon.free.anonymizer.com/ in front of a Web address. Again, you will have about a 30 second delay before you access the addressed Web site. For \$15 a quarter you can use Anonymizer as a proxy server for regular-speed anonymous browsing without ads. If a proxy server is not cost effective, for an average user it is not, use the above procedure for your first visit to a site. If you must fill out an online form that requires your e-mail address, make one up, if safe fill out another next time. Never respond to spam, this just encourages the spammers by verifying your e-mail address. Don't create personal profiles with your online service or on your favorite Web pages. Set up filters your ISP has to block mail, or if you are allowed more than one username, create a throwaway ID for public postings, chat rooms, and for providing a mailto address on your Web pages and then filter, delete, or ignore all e-mail to that ID. Use of a free Web-based e-mail account for a throwaway e-mail address is an alternative. In this case you may be obligated to review the mail that is retained on their server. The following is a list of some of the available free e-mail services:

AltaVista: *Email altavista.iname.com*
 AmExMail: *www.amexmail.com*
 Bigfoot: *www.bigfoot.com*
 Free Stamp: *www.freestamp.com*
 GeoCities: *www.geocities.com*
 Hotmail: *www.hotmail.com*
 MailExcite: *mail.excite.com*
 Net@address: *www.netaddress.com*
 RocketMail: *www.rocketmail.com*
 Switchboard: *www.switchboard.com*
 Yahoo Mail: *mail.yahoo.com*

Be aware that a name is all you need to find someone's e-mail address, telephone number, or street address, or whether the person is still living. Just go to www.yahoo.com/Reference/WhitePages. For U.S. and Canadian databases, with links to global internet directories, go to www.woldpages.com. Some feel they can not be traced when they change their address, name, URL, or e-mail address until they happen to check out www.semaphorcorp.com/wdtg/jump.html. The next shock is when they obtain a map and get driving directions ttt be found by someone you went to high school with you would go to www.classmates.com.

For those with caller ID or a telephone number scribbled on a napkin, as another example, you go to www.anywho.com/telq.html to determine who the number belongs to. If the number is a pay phone it's location is in The Payphone Project's site at www.sorabji.com/livewire/payphones. All you have is a toll free number; try www.freality.com/findet.htm. Freality Internet Search (www.freality.com/findet.htm) is one of the better sites with a good search engine and directory information. Another, not so good to view but with numerous links is The Codex (www.thecodex.com) that has a free newsletter on internet spying. The

professional "dirt diggers" at www.informus.com/ssnlkup.html cost you \$250 to sign-up at \$100 a year but, provide a sample of their work for free. If you need to know where a user is surfing, MetaSpy comes in two versions; filtered and unfiltered which are at www.metaspay.com/spy/filtered.html and www.metaspay.com/warningtop.html respectively. WebCrawler posts its current queries in ticker format at www.webcrawler.com/SearchTicker.html. One other word of caution, anything posted in public could end up archived somewhere in searchable format. The good part is that you can gather other's opinions on a specific subject at www.dejanews.com - just remember it is there for all to read and if any of the above data is included you may very well see this stranger from New York city at your door (with a map). Some of you may have noticed the .shtml in place of .html in the first part of this. No, it is not a typo, it is an indicator; What does it indicate? I would like to see if you know what it indicates or if you don't know send an e-mail to asking "What does .shtml indicate?".

THANK YOU!!!

We would like to give a special thanks to Gary Galloway of Ark-La-Tex Internet Services, who has very generously provided the club with a complimentary account so that we can conduct club business. On this note, we would like to remind members that they can now mail their comments, suggestions, complaints and/or articles for the newsletter to CBWUG@ark-la-tex.com
 Thanks again Gary.

SOME RANDOM TIPS

by Wayne Ebert

Internet Explorer Task Scheduler is not included in your version 4.nn? While connected to the internet, from the Tool Bar Choose Help, Product Update, Choose Task Scheduler. After downloading, you must install it.

To see a list of the fonts installed in your system; Start - Settings - Control Panel - Fonts. Double click on any font and a pop up window will display it. Those with a big Red A over the file icon belong to your Win95 System, if you are moving all fonts to a single folder/location or deleting those you don't need to reduce the time your PC takes to boot up (Windows automatically opens ALL installed fonts each time it starts up so it can load them into memory if needed).

What are .inf files? In most instances they are setup information to install an application. Right Click the file and a pop up menu is displayed. Choose Install if that is your intention.

If you have Norton Utilities 3 - Liveupdate2 did not solve all the problems. There is available Liveupdate3, size - 1.41 MB. go to ftp://ftp.symantec.com/public/english_us_canada/products/norton_utilities/ver_3win95/updates/NU3-LU03.EXE Word97 Grammer Checker has a problem with long convoluted sentences. Download the 629K patch at [ftp.microsoft.com/softlib/mslfiles/gramupd.exe](ftp://ftp.microsoft.com/softlib/mslfiles/gramupd.exe)

Problem child Money98 has a number of patches available: Problem with third party utilities? An 82KB patch is available at support.microsoft.com/download/

support/msslfiles/mspfctlx.exe. Check printing: See Knowledge Base article number Q179667 for a 128KB patch at support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q179/6/67.asp. If the product tour runs every time you launch Money98, a 75KB patch to turn that off is at support.microsoft.com/download/support/msslfiles/touroff.exe

Quicken Deluxe 99

by Wayne Ebert

A 100% IBM compatible Pentium recommended, with a 486/66 as minimum, that has Windows95, 98, or NT4 operating system and has free hard disk space of 34MB to install the basic Quicken application. Another 9MB to install QuickPlan and 35MB for MS Internet Explorer 4.0 which totals to 88MB. A VGA with 256 colors is minimum monitor while a SVGA is recommended. A 14,400 or above modem to access the online features that use 16MB of storage. At least a 2X CD-ROM drive is required for this CD-ROM. A soundboard and speakers are recommended as there are Video clips to assist you. Quicken's Help system is extensive, choose Index from the Help menu and type in the subject, but there are available an Automated Technical Support and Fax on Demand at 800-644-3193. For more help go to <http://www.intuit.com/support/quicken>. You can talk to a Quicken representative at (520) 618-7120, most days from 7 am - 7 pm CST. While deciding which of Intuit's Quicken 99s, Basic, Deluxe, Suite, or Home and Business that range in price from around \$40 to \$80 is for you, look for the 60-day unconditional money back guarantee seal on the box. Also, I found a \$20 rebate inside the Quicken Deluxe 99 box (which retails at \$55) for those who are upgrading from previous versions and are familiar with Quicken and want to use it's 10 new features.

As most Quicken users have a browser installed, select custom installation and remove the check mark for IE 4.01 installation to reduce installation time by about 40 minutes. The setup searches for a previous version, confirms uninstall, including shared files. You can reduce installation time by clicking on the Yes to all button on the confirmation dialog box. The previous versions data files are not removed, they are used by Quicken 99. If no data files are found, the new user setup is designed for you to use your last bank statement, or series of statements, as the source document, not your checkbook register. Should you desire to review Quicken 99's features to determine if Quicken 99 meets your expectations, click the No button when ask if you have your bank statement(s). The account will have a \$0.00 balance and installation continues. You may then activate the New User video and other assistance features to familiarize yourself with Quicken 99. Return the software and a copy of your sales receipt within 60 days for a full refund if you are not satisfied. I doubt if many are returned, this is a very good multiple function application. Many secure internet features are integrated into this application, but are not required to use the application. Should you desire to give MicroSoft's Money 99 (rated 2nd) or Quicken 99 a test run, both free trial versions are available on the internet. They are both at <http://www.cnet.com/Content/Reports/Shootouts/MoneyQuick99/>

Some Technical Stuff

This Newsletter was done in PagePlus, using Times New Roman font. It was printed using a HP Laserjet IIP Printer and the printout is with ClickBook. This is our first effort and we hope to make it better in future months. Please feel free to send feedback to: CBWUG@ark-la-tex.com