

Bella Vista Computer Club—John Ruehle Center

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F. Y. I.

Exeunt Windows 98

By Paul Buckner

I can't tell you how many times I have installed Windows 98, or worked on it for a client. It would have to be in the thousands of times over the years. Windows 98, especially Second Edition, holds a special place in my heart, since it was one of the more stable versions of Windows that Microsoft had come out with at the time.

More copies of Windows 98 have been sold and distributed with new machines than any other until the advent of Windows XP.

Now, for all the bad press Windows XP got when it first came out, it is a major improvement over its predecessors. The majority of the bad press centered around the Beta version, and rumors about instability. Today, especially in light of the latest service pack, Windows XP has proven to be a stable, fast and fun new addition to the Microsoft family. What makes it so special, you ask? Read on.

It has better support for USB devices, which are rapidly taking over the peripheral market, and printers and scanners galore.

Due to its popularity, many, many programs were written for Windows 98, and that means that a lot of folks out there have older software that they have grown used to, and would like to keep. Microsoft knew this to be true, and built in a backwards compatibility feature in their new OS (operating system), allowing a lot of older software to work with Windows XP.

Windows XP also has a built in System Restore function, so you can literally go back to how things were the day before they went bad, something a lot of guys would like to be able to do with their wives or girlfriends. Ahem.

(Continued on page 2)

November Meeting

A program on how to set up a PowerPoint Presentation was presented by Jerry Hiett, a representative from Office Depot.

The following Sunday, Office Depot hosted an Open House for club members to receive a discount on supplies. An All-In-One Printer was won by Don Heintz. Congratulations, Don!

Genealogy Fair

Saturday, February 18, 2006

10 AM—3 PM

The Genealogy SIG will hold a Genealogy Fair for anyone interested in genealogy, on its regularly scheduled 3rd Saturday in February at the Training Center.

The guest speaker will be Jayne Shoots Davis, a professional genealogical researcher since 1997. Her PowerPoint presentation will cover genealogy research in general and researching Ohio records with hands-on training by attendees, using the Internet. A majority of us who live in the NWA and SW MO area have ancestors who lived in Ohio. Bring names, even if only surnames, along with dates, towns, churches, etc. which might provide clues to help you find a relative you didn't know enough about before.

R.S.V.P.—by 2-4-06 to Bev Puckett, 855-7143 or bkpuckettmemories@juno.com.

Cost: \$2.50-Computer Club Members, \$10.00-non-members. Pre-payment by check made payable to Computer Club, designated for Genealogy SIG. Hot lunch included in cost.

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There is a built in CD burning option, so that if your computer has a CD burner, you can back up your files with a few clicks of the mouse.

Windows XP also supports larger hard drives, allowing you to store more data and install bigger programs, as well as running on a more stable file format, known as NTFS. NTFS is like concrete compared with a bare dirt floor. Older versions of Microsoft Windows ran on a file format known as FAT, which stood for File Allocation Table, and ran fairly well using it. Windows XP offers greater stability under NTFS, and is much less likely to lose files or come up with file corruption the way its predecessors did.

An added bonus is that many digital cameras are recognized immediately when plugged in, and don't require the hard to install, often clumsy software that comes with them. I heavily recommend using the software already built into XP, especially if your camera comes with Kodak Easyshare, which I find to be one of the more troublesome, maintenance intensive versions out there.

All in all, as hard as it might be to admit, with active support and as many features as it has, Windows XP is shaping up to be the next most popular version to hit the market.

Thanks to Paul Buckner for contributing to our newsletter. Paul is the owner of Buckner Computer Services—1-417-845-0202 or e-mail at shanke@olemac.net.

Genealogy Digs....

Our November meeting, presented by Janice Smith, motivated us to do more cemetery/headstone research. She shared with us on how to start with cemetery books in the local library. Using that information she was able to find grave sites and took pictures of headstones. She then searched local papers for obituaries to obtain valuable information on past family members thru census records..

The meeting in January will be an Antique Roadshow (without the appraiser). Bring one family item that you can share a story about.

February will be an All-Day Genealogy Fair coordinated with the NWA Genealogical Society.

(See page 4 for meeting information)

Study: Web Habits Vary By Gender

Excerpts from Morning News 12-29-05

"Women are now as likely to use the Internet as men—about two-thirds of both genders—yet a new study shows that gaps remain in what each sex does online.

American men who go online are more likely than women to check the weather, the news, sports, political and financial information, the Pew Internet and American Life Project reported. They are also more likely to use the Internet to download music and software and to take a class.

Online women are bigger users of e-mail and they are also more likely to go online for religious information and support for health or personal problems. About two-thirds of the 6,403 adults surveyed by Pew during 2005 said they use the Internet. By gender, it was 68% of the male respondents, and 66% of the female participants. In 2002, by contrast, the gap was slightly larger: 61% vs. 57%.

The surveys find that for many activities, such as getting travel information or looking up a phone number, men and women are equally likely to use the Internet.

A survey from March found that 54% of online men use the Internet for job-related research, compared with 48% of female Internet users. A September survey found 94% of online women sending e-mail, compared with 88% for men. Women also were more likely to use e-mail to write friends and relatives about news, worries, advice and planning. They were also more likely to credit e-mail for improving relationships with friends, family and colleagues.

Men were more likely to participate in interest groups, such as fan clubs. They were more likely to use the Internet for entertainment, such as downloading songs and video, listening to music at Web sites and remixing songs, images or text into new creations.

Tracy Kennedy, a University of Toronto and Brock University lecturer who specializes in Internet use in the home, said that beyond gender, a person's off-line life produces 'different expectations, different routines and different needs' when he or she goes online.

For example, women are often the primary caretakers in household so it's likely that she will be searching for health information for her kids and spouse (or) partner."

AARP Free Tax Service

AARP Tax-Aide will provide a **free** tax service from January 30 to April 13, at The Bella Vista Boys & Girls Club, 2260 Forest Hills Blvd., to ALL taxpayers with middle and low income, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Taxpayers do not need to be AARP members to use this service.

AARP Tax-Aide volunteers who are trained, tested and certified by the IRS will be available to assist taxpayers from 8:30 a.m. until noon, Mondays through Thursdays, except the week of March 20th. Should Bentonville Schools be closed for inclement weather, the Tax-Aide site will also be closed.

Federal and Arkansas tax returns will be filed electronically. If taxes are owed on the Federal & Arkansas returns, they do not need to be mailed until April 17, 2006.

Taxpayers must bring their 2004 Federal and State tax returns, their Social Security cards, photo ID's, plus all information necessary to complete their 2005 tax returns. Tax returns with stock or bond sales, will not be prepared unless the taxpayer has his cost basis. Cost basis information should be obtained by the taxpayer, from his broker, prior to using this tax service.

Those taxpayers with private businesses, limited partnerships (K-1), rental properties or complex tax problems are advised to seek the services of professional tax preparers.

Due to recent tax legislation, taxpayers who will use mileage for deductions (business, medical, and Katrina charities), need to split mileage between pre-September 1st and September 1st to December 31.

This free service is administered by the AARP Foundation in cooperation with the IRS.

Computer Joke

Tech Support: "I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop."

Customer: "OK"

Tech Support: "Did you get a pop-up menu?"

Customer: "No."

Tech Support: "OK, right-click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?"

Customer: "No"

Tech Support: "OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?"

Customer: "Sure, you told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'."

Submitted by Dick Clark

Questions and Answers

Q: I get a lot of e-mail but don't always have the time to answer right away. Is there a way to flag it to keep it from getting buried in my other e-mail?

A: Click on the header for the message that you want to be reminded to answer to highlight the header. On the menu bar, click Message and select Watch Conversation. Upon doing this, the message header is now red and at the very left edge of the header you'll see a pair of eye-glasses. This indicates that this message is being "watched". If you move this message to a folder, the folder becomes red. The folder and message will both stay red until you uncheck "Watch Message" or you delete the message.

Computer Classes Scheduled January—February 2006

Getting Started With Computers
Basic Computing
Digital Photography
Internet
E-Mail
PC Maintenance
Advanced Computing

For dates, times, course descriptions and costs, go to www.bvcompclub.org and click on the January and February calendars.

To register for any class, call 273-2558

The deadline for articles or announcements for the February newsletter is **February 6th**. You can also submit ideas for articles or computer related items for sale to: lpdavis31@cox.net

Please put 'Bits and Bytes' in the subject line!

New Fiscal Year Started in September

Dues are now due for 2006. Dues are \$15 for a couple/family or \$11.25 for one person.

Current membership is required for attendance at the Special Interest Groups and to qualify for reduced course fees.

BACK SPACE

Sites of the Month!

www.ssa.gov
Official website of U.S. Social Security Admin.

arstar.ihost.com
Renew Arkansas Vehicle Registration Online

www.worldpages.com
People search/reverse lookup, etc.

www.missingmoney.com
Unclaimed money/accounts

February Club Meeting

Mark your calendars now for the next meeting of the Bella Vista Computer Club which will be Monday, **February 20th** at 7:00 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church – across from Tanyard Creek. Our fiscal year starts in September each year. Dues for 2006 should be paid as soon as possible! See Mary Lou Zolli, Membership Chairperson, to join.

Computer Club members get reduced rates for classes they sign up to take! Participation in special interest groups (SIG) is limited to "members only".

Help Wanted!!

We are looking for a volunteer interested in maintaining the Club member's e-mail addresses.

The Club also needs a Historian.

Club Officers

Bob Johnson	(855-7143)	President
Jim Prince	(855-6673)	Vice President
Marie Herr	(273-2558)	Secretary
Linda Young	(855-3452)	Treasurer

Board Members

Rose Krier	(876-5067)
Don Schatz	(855-0710)
Julea Bell	(855-0731)

New!!

Open House Help Clinic*

New!!

There will be an Open House Help Clinic at the John Ruehle Center, Highlands Crossing Center, on the first Saturday and the third Wednesday of the month. These clinics are open to the public so invite a friend or bring your neighbor. Someone will be available from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. to answer your questions, discuss your computer problems, or sit down at a computer and work with you.

Special Interest Groups (SIG's)*

Digital Camera SIG*

The Digital Camera SIG meets at 10 a.m. on the **second** Saturday of each month. This is an informal meeting of individuals interested in exploring the capabilities and limitations of digital photography. The use of the computer to store and process digital images is a related issue of interest. The group leader is Chuck Billman, 855-4188.

Genealogy SIG*

The Genealogy SIG meets at 10 a.m. on the **third** Saturday of each month (**except December**). This is an informal meeting of individuals interested in sharing their experiences and helping new members get started in genealogical research. The group leader is Bev Puckett, 855-7143.

*All classes, Open House Clinics and Special Interest Groups (SIG's) meet at the John Ruehle Center, Highlands Crossing Center.

Committee Chairs

Mary Lou Zolli	(876-5625)	Membership Historian (Open)
Pat Davis	(876-2163)	Editor
Fred Bartlingck	(855-9485)	Programs
Earl Cummings	(855-0192)	Librarian
Pauline Clark	(855-1968)	Public Relations
Ryan Smith	(876-2881)	Web Master

Others

Marie Herr	(273-2558)	Education
Chuck Billman	(855-4188)	Training Center Administrator