

Bits and Bytes

November 2011

Arkansas' Premier Computer Club

Bella Vista Computer Club - John Ruehle Center

Highlands Crossing Center, 1808 Forest Hills Blvd, Suite 208, Bella Vista, AR 72715

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Don Hood, Newsletter Editor

COME- COME-COME

The Computer Club will be participating in the Non-Profit Community Volunteer Festival that will be held Tuesday, **November 15th** from 3pm - 7 pm at the Metfield Clubhouse. This will be your chance to visit the newly remodeled clubhouse and check out the many nonprofit organizations in Bella Vista. There will also be light refreshments and musical performances. Mark the date on your calendar and stop by to see us.

\$ 25.00 NOT CLAIMED!

President Nan DeLany was prepared to give \$25.00 to Karen Prince at the conclusion of the October General Membership Meeting October 10th. However Karen was not present to claim her prize. Another drawing will be held at the November 14th general meeting from all Computer Club members. You must be present to win.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Lee Harlow	Lee Harlow
Frank & Florence Young	Virginia Poeschl
Angela Hansen	Mel Hillier
Douglas Domer	Jack Fellenzer
Cynthia King	Norman H. Trautmann
Shirley M. Rhine	Judy Klein
Frederick Dionisopoulos	Don Loudonback, Sr.

FIND YOUR REGISTRATION

AND PRODUCT KEYS

Operating Systems (Windows XP, Windows Vista, or Windows 7) and other large programs like Microsoft Office package are expensive. If you buy them, its wise to save your Product ID and CD Key codes preferably in a secure yet accessible place. Key Codes and Product ID codes are generally long and generally impossible to remember without keeping them safe.

A free small utility that displays these important codes is "**ProduKey**" downloaded from CNET. This compact freeware identifies and displays the following:

- ◆ Product Name
- ◆ Product ID
- ◆ Product Key
- ◆ Computer Name & Folder
- ◆ Installation or Modification Date & Time

You can copy this information, save it to your documents or secure it in a safe place. A handy little freeware program.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The Club Membership approved a major change to the Computer Club By-laws October 10th which eliminates the current membership period ending on August 30th annually. The dues for new members were prorated depending on when the membership was started.

The new changes are: "A membership will be for 12 months beginning with the 1st day of the month the membership is paid. Any additional memberships issued to persons of the same household will expire on the same date as the initial membership issued in that household."

(Two Neat Windows Tips)

USE THE SEARCH BAR IN WINDOWS

VISTA AND WINDOWS 7

"START MENU"

We were surprised to see the number of Vista and Window 7 users who aren't using the search bar at the bottom of the start menu. It's a great feature.

- 1) Instead of scrolling through your long list of programs, just type the program's name in the search bar. It will appear at the top of the menu. Just click it and go.
- 2) If you have more than one hard drive on your computer, you can open either drive by typing in its drive letter in the start menu search form. For example, I have an F:\ drive. If I want to access something on my F:\ drive, I just type F:\ in the search form - the contents of the drive will be displayed in a flash.

A couple of ways you can use the start menu search form to save time!

COMPUTER CLUB NEEDS HELP

AT AARP RECYCLE CENTER

The Club has been very fortunate over the past few years to have received grant funds from the AARP Recycle Center for work that is preformed by Club members. The annual dues paid by each member goes for the ongoing operation of the club such as classroom space, internet fees, etc. The classroom equipment including computers, monitors, projector, screen, software, instructional materials is primarily a result from the grant funds received from the AARP Recycle Center. A few individuals such as Ann Schaefer, Don Caulkins, Don Hood were responsible for most of the grant funds provided by the AARP. On occasion a few other members helped during the year. **To continue to receive grant funds, please consider helping a little each month at the recycle center.** A couple or more hours provided weekly or monthly would be greatly appreciated. Just list your hours at the Center on the Computer Club page. Won't you consider helping a little. Thank you.

CHANGE SIZE OF DESKTOP ICONS

Windows 7, like Windows Vista, supports the resizing of your desktop icons. All you have to do is go to your desktop (Windows Key +D) . Hold down the CTRL key and use the mouse's scroll wheel to resize your desktop icons as big or as small as you like.

<u>Club Officers</u>		
Nan DeLany	268-3264	President
Chuck Billman	855-4188	Vice President
Julie Storm	696-8867	Secretary
Judi Shannon	876-2400	Treasurer
<u>Board Members</u>		
Nancy Jones	855-3350	Marie Herr 273-2558
Jan Kaylor	855-6974	
<u>Committee Chairs</u>		
Jim Prince	855-6673	Membership
Richard Clark	202-4554	Programs
Nancy Jones	855-3350	Public Relations
Ryan Smith	876-2881	Webmaster
Marie Herr	273-2558	Education
Earl Cummings	855-0192	Librarian

SCAN YOUR PC FOR ERRORS

“We’ve always recommended Malwarebytes as a good malware scanner - one that specializes in ridding your computer of malware that even the best antivirus and antispyware programs can’t seem to remove. But now it has become clear that the most dangerous threats you face are not from viruses, adware, Trojans or spyware - although these are still dangerous and still out there waiting for you - the most dangerous and pervasive threats - the ones you are most likely to encounter - are the **scareware** programs (**rogues**). Not only will these programs hold your computer hostage until you purchase them, they will shut down antivirus and antispyware programs on your computer and once installed, they may monitor your activities or send sensitive information back to their developers. So not only do these programs hold your computer hostage, you pay a ransom to get your computer back - and they may steal more than money from you too.

Malwarebytes is not the same as an antivirus or an antispyware program. It’s unlike any other kind of program. It detects many of the current scareware/rogues and it can get rid of all of the pieces they leave behind.

Will Malwarebytes replace your antivirus or antispyware program - no. It’s not intended to do that. It’s intended to offer you another layer of protection. And while we continue to urge you to not rely on software to protect you - you need the right tools to assist you in keeping nasty and malicious things off your computer.

We’ve always mentioned Malwarebytes in our recommended software section, but now we feel we must elevate it to required software status - right up there with a good antivirus program and a good antispyware program. Why? Because the threat you face from scareware/rogues has now become the most likely malicious software you’ll encounter. Both EB and I have encountered it, family members have encountered it, friends have encountered it - it’s everywhere. And if you haven’t seen it yet, you’re lucky.

At least install Malwarebytes free version - on your computer today. And keep a copy on a flash drive too. While the freeware version does not offer real-time protection, it does afford you a means to clean the rogue/scareware off your computer should you be unable to restore your computer to a time before you were infected.

Malwarebytes works on Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7 both 32bit and 64bit.”

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DON’T FORGET NEXT OPEN HOUSES:

NOVEMBER 16TH (WEDNESDAY)

DECEMBER 3RD (SATURDAY)

10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

BRING YOUR COMPUTERS

THE BEST OF THE INTERNET

"WIKIPEDIA"

"Wikipedia - the online encyclopedia - began as a good idea that got off to a rough start. Anyone that wanted to contribute to Wikipedia could and did, and that led to an online encyclopedia that was rife with misinformation. Times have changed and Wikipedia's owners have long since provided adequate oversight. Wikipedia is now a great resource of information about almost anything you want to know.

Information on Wikipedia is reliable and well documented; it's a great source of information that you can rely on. Wikipedia is a site you need to bookmark and use. You'll find it useful and a great source of information on many topics

Wikipedia is on our list of the best things on the Internet, and it should be on your list too. Wikipedia - the online encyclopedia: <http://wikipedia.com/>"

WHAT DOES A MIRROR IMAGE BACKUP

ACTUALLY MEAN?

"A mirror image backup means an exact copy of your hard drive - from the underlying root drive, to the operating system, to every program you've installed, to the very last file you added. In short, a mirror image backup is an exact clone of your hard drive at the moment you created the backup. Mirror image backups allow you to completely restore your computer without reinstalling Windows (operating system) and without reinstalling any programs - or adding any files. Your computer will be restored exactly as it was when you created the mirror image backup.

You don't have to dig out your Windows installation disk or any program disks or registration keys....you just restore and go. In less than 45 minutes you can

restore your computer using a mirror image backup. That's why we keep telling you -mirror image backups are the only way to go. You really have to see it to believe it."

WAIT A MINUTE! DON'T FORMAT

THAT FLASH DRIVE!

"If you're just now finding how handy USB flash drives are, you may also be finding out how quirky Windows can be when it comes to flash drives. First, if you're using Windows XP, Windows Vista, or Windows 7, you don't need to download any drivers. Only Windows 95, 98, ME users need to worry about drivers for USB flash drives.]

Sometimes Windows will tell you (for whatever reason) that you need to format the USB drive before you can use it. Don't do it. You don't need to format the USB drive no matter what Windows says. If you do format it, you may find you cannot use it. If you have formatted a USB flash drive and find you can't use it, fret not. Did you know that you can visit the manufacturer's Web site and download a special file that will format the USB flash drive back to factory specifications so you can use it again.? It's true. If you've formatted a USB flash drive because Windows was quirky and told you to - and you find you can't use the flash drive or it's not working correctly, look at the brand on your flash drive, visit their site and download the file to format the drive back to the factory specifications."

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'HAPPY THANKSGIVING'

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