Bits and Bytes
February 2012

Arkansas' Premier Computer Club

Bella Vista Computer Club - John Ruehle Center

Highlands Crossing Center, 1801 Forest Hills Blvd, Suite 208, Bella Vista, AR 72715

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Nan DeLany, President

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SHUT DOWN YOUR COMPUTER

WINDOWS XP:

Press the Windows Key then u u
(Remember to release each key before pressing the next one—and do it quickly)

WINDOWS VISTA:

Press the Windows Key, Right Arrow Key, Right Arrow Key, _Right Arrow Key, u
(Remember to release each key first before pressing the next key.)

WINDOWS 7:

Press the Windows Key, Right Arrow Key, Enter

Note: Be sure to save all work before trying these keyboard shortcuts.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Fae Miskimen	David & Linda Schmelig
Keith Roberts	Carl & Jane Long
Mary Lou Kolb	Mary Neil Turner
Lillian Pingel	Larry Stokebrand
Mary Nell Turner	Doug & Rebecca Lemm
Paula Sinese	Rus Bernhard
Jim Jensen	Dennis Fritz

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

(February Classes & Workshops)

- **Digital Camera—"*Camera to Computer*"**
  Feb 6 (9 AM to noon)

- *Windows 7 Live Mail—Feb 6, 8 (1 PM—3 PM)*

- *File Management—Feb 8, 22 (9 AM to noon)*

- *Using Vista—"Settings"*
  Feb 13 (9 AM to noon)

- *Using Windows 7—"Programs"*
  Feb 13 (1:30 PM—3:30 PM)

- *PC Maintenance—"Protection"*
  Feb 15 (1:30 PM—3:30 PM)

- *Word Workshop—Feb 20—(10 AM to noon)*

- *Digital Camera—"Photo Editing & Sharing"*
  Feb 27—(9 AM to noon)

- *Excel—Feb 27—(1PM — 3 PM)*

Home Inventory Workshop
  Feb 29 — (1 PM — 3 PM)

Pre-registration is mandatory—(479) 273-2558

Classes are free to Computer Club members. Club membership annual dues $20 —1/2 price for each additional family member. Classes and workshop**s** at John Ruehle Center**,** Suite 208, Highlands Crossing.

A number of the Club's members like and use "CCleaner" Here's another take on this program:

"Bill asks about CCleaner:

I came across a system "CCleaner" and read about numerous features provided! I license Registry Mechanic, but "CCleaner" software is freeware. Do you have any intelligence on this Freeware product? I don't want to try it, as long as I use RM, but would like to know its value! Thanks!

Our Answer

CCleaner has some good features and some very bad features. It tries to be a Swiss Army Knife, but ends up just being good pocket knife with a caveat: It's a software bundler. And while Yahoo Toolbar might be acceptable to some, it is annoying to many and a bit too aggressive as well, CCleaner tries to sneak the Yahoo Toolbar past its users by listing it last in the install options. Worse, most of the install options should be checked, except for Yahoo Toolbar. (When the user installs the latest version be sure and click all options **except** "Add CCleaner Yahoo! Toolbar and use CCleaner from your browser" This is an attempt by CCleaner to make Yahoo Toolbar seem like a good way to access and run CCleaner. What's wrong with a desktop shortcut or the program menu or the Quick Launch toolbar. Why in the heck would you want to run a clean up program from your browser? It makes no sense—and CCleaner must know that. But hey, times are tough. I guess if you don't mind fooling users into installing something they don't need and probably don't want— you can make a $1.00 a install and make lots

of money. Hey! Maybe that's why we're broke? We don't think that's ethical—but what do ethics have to do with it—it's all about the money, right?

Anyway, enough of that rant. CCleaner does a couple of things well. It does a fairly good job of cleaning junk files off your computer. It's program uninstaller pales in comparison to Revo Uninstaller (free). It does a miserable job as a registry cleaner. In fact, when we tested it we had to use System Restore to fix some of things it broke. If you want to download it and use it for cleaning junk files, it does a good job. Just use caution when installing it— uncheck "Yahoo Toolbar" - unless, of course, you really want it. But then, if you wanted it, you could get the real deal at www.yahoo.com and you'd probably already have it.

One other problem with CCleaner—it updates frequently. This might sound like a good thin g—but software developers know that issuing new "updates" is a great way to stay on top of the download popularity lists—so many of the so-called "updates" amount to nothing more than tiny, minor changes that do not add anything to the program. It's a game that a lot of software developers play— because they understand how the popularity listings on major download sites work. They know how to game the system. It's not the developers' fault—it's a flaw in the system. It's impossible to say how many of CCleaner's updates are real enhancements and how many are simply issued to keep it at the top of the "new version" lists. We'll never know because, frankly, we don't see CCleaner very much.

To get more information about it or to download CCleaner visit *http://ccleaner.com/"*

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Genealogy SIG will meet at 10 a.m. on February 11 at John Ruehle Computer Club classroom

SYSTEM RESTORE

(*For Windows XP, Windows Vista, & Windows 7*

Microsoft has included a Windows feature which has saved most computer users a lot of grief and expense in having computer technicians work on computers by providing a built in feature called **"System Restore"**. System Restore allows you to restore your system files back to an earlier point in time. It's a way to undo system changes to your computer without affecting your personal files, such as e-mails. documents, or picture photos.

Sometimes, the installation of a program or a driver can cause an unexpected change to your computer or cause Windows to behave unpredictably. Sometimes the installation of certain software will cause your computer to start running very slow and new problems are created.   Usually uninstalling the program will correct the problem.

If uninstalling does not correct the problem or if the user does not know what program or change actually caused the problem, then you can try restoring your computer to an earlier time when everything worked correctly.

System Restore uses a feature called System Protection to regularly create and save restore points on your computer. These restore points contain information about registry settings and other system information that Windows uses. You can also create restore points manually; however, most users use the restore points set by the Window's program.

There are several different ways to open the System Restore feature.

♦ Click the "**Start button**", then click on "**All Programs**", next click on "**Accessories**", then "**System Tools**" and then clicking on "**System Restore**"

♦ Click the "**Start button**", then type "**restore**" into the "search box" and you'll immediately see System Restore a the top of the start menu.

♦ Or you can type "**rstrui**" into the search box and hit "enter". Your choice.

Once the System Restore Program has opened, select a restore point which is prior to when you started having a problem. In System Restore, the user may create a new restore point, roll back to an existing restore point, or change the System Restore configuration. More over, the restore operation itself can be undone.

Don't think of System Restore as a built-n backup for your computer. Think of it as a safety net. Remember, it won't affect any personal files or allow you to go back in time and retrieve deleted emails, photos, documents etc.

Invite your friends, neighbors and relatives to attend the Computer Club meetings to learn how we can help them to learn and have fun with their computers. You will be providing a great service to them. We are here to help!

WHAT IS A DLL?

"A DLL is a Dynamic Link Library. A Dynamic Link Library is a collection of small programs, which can be called upon when needed by the executable program (exe) that is running. The DLL lets the executable communicate with a specific device such as a printer or may contain source code to do particular functions. DLLs are not executable (that is they do not "run") in and of themselves though.

How does a DLL work? An example would be if the program (exe) needs to get the free space of your hard drive it can call the DLL file that contains the function with parameters and a call function. The DLL will then tell the executable the free space. This allows the executable to be small in size and not need to rewrite the function that has already written . This allows any program needing to obtain the free space the information without having to write all the source code and it saves space on your hard drive as well. DLLs in this fashion are also known as shared files.

Why use DLLs? The advantage of DLL files is that,. Because they do not get loaded into random access memory (RAM) together with the main program, space is saved in RAM. When and if a DLL file is called, then it is loaded. For example, you are editing a Microsoft Word document, the printer DLL files does not need to be loaded into RAM. If you decide to print the document, then the printer DLL file is loaded and run."

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BYTES

TB stands for terabytes. GB stands for gigabyte. MB stands for megabyte, and KB stands for kilobyte.

A byte is a single bit of information.

A kilobyte is 1024 bytes. A megabyte is 1,024,000 bytes. A gigabyte is 1,073,741,824 bytes. A terabyte is 1,099,511,627,776 bytes. That's generally the accepted definition. However, when talking about storage like hard drives it gets a little easier. For this purpose a kilobyte is 1000 bytes, a megabyte is 1,000,000 bytes, and a gigabyte is 1,000,000,000 and a terabyte is 1,000,000,000,000 bytes. So a kilobyte takes up less room than a megabyte, a megabyte less than a gigabyte less than a terabyte.

"HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY"