

Bits and Bytes

March 2012

Arkansas' Premier Computer Club

Bella Vista Computer Club - John Ruehle Center

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NOTE: Computer users and members should consider searching the Club's Web Site by typing in the "www.bvcompclub.org" and once the site is brought up, add it to your "favorites". It will then be so easy to quickly go to the Club's web page to check on class schedules on the monthly calendars, meeting dates, and even check on the minutes, program presentations, current and past newsletters "Bits and Bytes", and lots of information to help solve computer questions and problems. You can print copies of the available information. The web site is for your information and reference material. You don't need to always type in the web site (www.bvcompclub.org) if you list it as one of your favorites. Once added, then right click on it and rename it "Computer Club" or any other name you wish.

The Computer Club Officers and members were sadden with the loss of Steve Hansen this past month. Steve's passing due to medical reasons is a blow to the Club as he was a major contributor at our Question & Answer panels, but also provided valuable presentations at membership monthly meetings. We will miss Steve!

FIXING INTERNET CONNECTION PROBLEMS

Get Back on the 'Net

(Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7)

"Here are some tips you can try if you experience problems with your cable or DSL connection. Connection TCP/IP problems can be really hard to trouble shoot. And sometimes your connection may quit of no apparent reason. This can be frustrating, especially if you're not sure what to do when it happens.

First, make sure your ISP (Internet Service Provider) is not having problems. Cable and DSL modems have a connection light that is on and not flashing when a connection is available. If you don't see a steady connection light, call your ISP to make sure that the problem isn't with them. If your modem indicates a connection is available but you cannot get on the internet, here are some safe and easy tips that we've used many times that we've used many times that should help you get back on the internet fast.

1. Try automated repair. Just right-click on the problem connection in the Network Connections folder and choose repair. (continue on page 2)

Fixing Internet Connection (continued)

2. Re-set your router. If you have a home network, the problem may lie with the router or in the connection between the router and your broadband provider. Follow the directions for resetting the router. Most always you can reset your router by unplugging the power cord, leaving the router off for at least one minute, then turning it back on. Routers vary though, so be sure to check your manual
3. Re-set your cable DSL modem. If you have a broadband connection, the problem may be with the IP address assignment by your ISP. Turn off your cable or DSL modem by unplugging the power cord and leave it powered off for at least three minutes. Plug in the power cord and wait until the modem has cycled through its test cycle. Hopefully you'll find that you're back on the internet.
4. Power Cycling: First shut down your computer. Then unplug the power to your cable modem, and then unplug the power cord from your router. Wait at least three minutes, then plug the power cord back into your modem and wait for the test cycle to complete. Now power-up the router and wait for its test cycle to complete. Finally boot up your computer. You should be back on on the 'Net now. Don't forget to push the reset buttons on either the modem or router whenever they are unplugged.

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FUTURE PROGRAMS

April: Photo Editing Photoshop Elements, Picasa

May: "Teamviewer Log Me In"

June: Powerpoint For Home Inventory, Digital Photos

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

(March Classes & Workshops)

- ◆ **Vista—"Programs" March 5 (9 AM to noon)**
- ◆ **Windows 7—"Programs"
March 5 (1 PM—4 PM)**
- ◆ **Windows 7—"Setting Up Windows 7"
March 7 (1 PM—3 PM)**
- ◆ **Vista—"Windows Mail"
March 12 & 14 (10 AM to noon)**
- ◆ **"Microsoft Power Point"
March 12 & 14 (1 PM—3 PM)**
- ◆ **"Excel Workshop" March 19 (10 AM to noon)**
- ◆ **Windows 7—"Basic Windows 7"
March 19 & 21 (1:30 PM —3:30)**
- ◆ **Vista—"Projects" March 26 (9 AM to noon)**
- ◆ **Windows 7—"Projects"
March 26 (1 AM — 4 PM)**
- ◆ **"Skype & Logitech Video Workshop"
March 28—(10 AM — 1 PM)**

Pre-registration is mandatory—(479) 273-2558 or sign up at General Meeting on March 12th

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

Genealogy SIG will meet at 10 a.m. on March 17th at John Ruehle Computer Club classroom

The Bella Vista Computer Club assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained herein and will accept no liability for its application .

DON'T FORGET NEXT OPEN HOUSE

March 21st (Wednesday)

April 7th (Saturday)

**10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM BRING COMPUTER AND
OR YOUR QUESTIONS**

Laptops with power cord Desktop Towers only

(Free help for Members)

“Charles asks why we don’t recommend Spybot Search & Destroy or Ad-Aware. I notice you no longer recommend Spybot Search and Destroy and I don’t think I’ve ever seen you mention Ad-Aware. I am curious to know why –I’ve seen many other Windows newsletters recommending both of these free programs. I rely on you guys for the truth. Thanks, Charles T.

Our Answer: Thanks Charles. The world has passed Spybot Search and Destroy by we’re afraid. It was great on Windows 95 and Windows 98 and it was OK early in the evolution of Windows XP. Now its outdated interface and cutesy attempts to modernize have left Spybot Search and Destroy an also-ran. It’s too bad. At one time it was the best or one of the best freeware and anti-spyware program around. Not anymore. We sure don’t recommend that anyone rely on Spybot to protect their Windows XP, Vista, or Windows 7 computer. Spybot belongs to a by-gone era, and unless it introduces a completely new and modernized version, we no longer recommend it.

Ad-Aware never lived up to its name or the hype it generated. Ad-Aware has an almost cult-like following, we’re not sure why. Ad-Aware became a favorite of many because it was one of the first antispyware programs to offer a free version and it is easy-to-use. However easy to use and a slick interface don’t add up to reliable protection.

There are much better antispyware programs available.

We currently recommend one anti-spyware and one anti-malware. These programs have proven themselves to be reliable in protecting computers from the avalanche of spyware and adware that abounds on the Web. The spyware and adware problem isn’t going away—it’s getting worse and it’s more important than ever that users take the spyware, adware and malware threats that abound very seriously. Every user should have a minimum of one anti-spyware program and one malware program installed—in addition to a good anti-virus which is kept religiously updated.

We recommend:

SUPERAntiSpyware Professional Lifetime—
(Purchase)

Malwarebytes (Free version)—no real-time protection—but very useful anyway.

Malwarebytes (Pro version) - includes real-time protection—lifetime license (Purchase)

Again a reminder, these programs do not replace your anti-virus software, so be sure you use a good antivirus program (only one though) and keep it updated. You can get good anti-virus protection free of charge by installing “Avast” or “Microsoft Security Essentials” - both are free for home users. Both Avast and MSE offer some antispyware protection as well.”

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Editor’s note: SuperAntiSpyware (Free version) —no real-time protection — is also available.

The Bella Vista Computer Club keeps Spybot Search and Destroy installed on Club computers.

78 ROUGE ANTI-VIRUS AND ANTI-SPYWARE PROGRAMS YOU NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR

Every day it seems someone is out to trick you into buying something or downloading something that will a) harm your computer, b) glean personal information from your computer, c) turn your computer into a billboard complete with flashing popup advertisements that seem to come out of nowhere or d) all of these.

Some of the most devious tricks are those which prey on users fears. These kind of scams rely on user naivety and (sometimes) catchy names to steal money from consumers. Sometimes they steal more than money—they steal personal information and can turn your dream computer into a nightmare.

We've assembled a list of 78 rogue anti-spyware/anti-virus applications that are currently found on the Web. Some are more visible than others, particularly the "WinFixer" (Antivirus 2008, Antivirus 2009) rogue application which has stolen millions of dollars from unwary Web surfers. We don't want a single one of you to be fooled, so we're making this available to you in case you happen to run across one or more of these. Many will tempt you into downloading by showing your system being scanned in real time—this too is a hoax. It's a animated gif or Flash movie showing a fake Windows scan dialog which will always show numerous errors and problems. Of course you'll need to download the rogue software to remove all the problems the scan inevitably finds. If you're tricked into downloading it you will find some of these difficult to remove. Worse, if you're tricked into buying one of these scam programs, you'll find it difficult to get your money back.

Feel free to print this list and keep it handy in case you run into any of these programs on your travels around the Web. Be cautious, use common sense and refer to this list.

Advance Cleaner	IEAntivirus	Spylocked
AlfaCleaner	IEDefender	SpySheriff
AntiSpyCheck 2.1	InfeStop	SpySpotter
AntiSpyStorm	KVMSecure	Spyware Cleaner
AntiSpywareBot	MacSweeper	Spyware Quake
AntiSpywareExpert	MalCrush 3.7	Spyware Stormer
AntiSpywareMaster	MalwareCore	SpywareStrike
AntiSpywareSuite	MalwareAlarm	Spy-RidSpyWiper
AntiSpyware 2008	MalwareBell 3.2	System Live
XP	PCSecure System	Protect
Antivemins	PC Antispy	System Doctor
Antivirgear	PC Clean Pro	TrustedAntivirus
Antivirus 2008	PC SpeedScan Pro	TheSpyBot
Antivirus 2009	Pest Trap	UltimateCleaner
AntiVirus Gold	Perfect Cleaner	Virus Heal
Antivirus Master	PAL Spyware	Virus Isolator
Antivirus XP 2008	Remover	VirusProtectPro
Awole 6.0	PCPrivacytool	VirusRanger
Brave Sentry	PC-Antispyware	Virus Antivirus
BestsellerAntivirus	PSGuard	WinAntiVirus -
Cleanator	SecurePCCleaner	Pro 2008
Contra Virus	Security toolbar 7.1	WinFixer
Doctor Antivirus	SpyAxe	WinSpyware-
Drive Cleaner	Spy Away	Protect
Disk Knight	SpyCrush	WorldAntiSpy
EasySpyware Cleaner	Spydawn	XP Antivirus
Errorsafe	SpyGuarder	XP Security -
Free-viruscan.com	SpyHeal	2011