

Bits and Bytes

August 2012

Arkansas' Premier Computer Club

Bella Vista Computer Club - John Ruehle Center

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DIGITAL PHOTOCOPIERS

LOADED WITH SECRETS

At a warehouse in New Jersey, 6,000 used copy machines sit ready to be sold. CBS News chief investigative correspondent Armen Keteyian reports almost every one of them holds a secret.

Nearly every digital copier built since 2002 contains a hard drive - like the one on your personal computer - storing an image of every document copied, scanned, or emailed by the machine. These copiers are like digital time bombs loaded with personal information that the consumer never thought would be retained by the copier. If you're in the identity theft business it seems this would be a pot of gold and many of these copiers are being shipped to Singapore and other foreign countries.

Read more at web site: www.cbsnews.com/2100-18563_162-6412439.html (provided by Helen Weeks)

WARM BOOT VS. COLD BOOT

"The main difference between a warm boot and a cold boot is a warm boot (click Start, Restart) is more of a reset, and cold boot (click Start, Turn Off) means you are turning your computer completely off, letting it set for at least 60 seconds, then turning it back on. Generally, if you suspect any kind of hardware or device driver problem,

you would need to cold boot; for software issues, a warm boot will usually suffice. Both will shut down all running programs.

With a cold boot, leaving the power off for sixty seconds ensures that all capacitors on the motherboard are able to discharge by letting the motherboard power down completely- this also gives the hard disk time to stop spinning. With a warm boot, power to the motherboard is generally not discontinued, capacitors are not discharged and hard drives do not normally completely spin down.

Unless you're a masochist, you're probably going to opt for the warm boot most of the time. A cold boot is more thorough and more complete. Most of the time a warm boot will be enough to flush the memory cache and correct whatever problem caused you to reboot in the first place. If it doesn't, the next thing you should try -before anything else is a cold boot.

You would certainly want to choose a warm boot whenever a Windows update or software installation requires you to restart your computer."

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WHAT IS A FIREWALL? **(And why do you need one)**

A firewall is protective barrier between you and the rest of the computers you are connected to. When you go on to the internet you are visible to the outside world. (If you weren't, then there would be no way to get a web page to your browser!) You are visible through something called a port. A port is service available to you. There are many thousands of these ports (services), and each is given a number. The three ports (services) you use most often are the world wide web (port 80), Incoming email (typically port 110), and outgoing email (usually port 25). The idea of a firewall is to close off the ports (services) you're not using. If you don't, then your open ports are an invitation to others to raid your computer! If you only have one piece of security software on your computer then it has to be a firewall. Unless your computer is not connected to the outside world, this is a must-have.

What kind of things can happen if I don't have a firewall?

If you do a fresh install of the Windows Operating system (XP, Vista, Windows 7), and leave it unpatched, your computer will be attacked within minutes. You'll be attacked through your open ports, and bombarded with popup messages; Trojans, viruses and worms will be loaded behind your back; Spyware and Malware will clog up your browser. In fact, PC Format magazine (issue #194) ran this very experiment. Their unprotected PC was unusable after about 2 and half hours! Having a firewall in place would have prevented some of these attacks.

Even if you have all of your operating system's service packs and updates, not having a firewall means somebody will eventually find an open port on your computer. If they can install a Trojan on to your PC, they'll be able to control it!

The Types of Firewall

For the general user, you can place firewalls into

two simple categories: hardware and software. A hardware firewall can be a router that sits between your computer and the outside world. You can plug more computers into the router, and each will be protected by the firewall that's part of the router. We recommend Windows operators use the Windows firewall that came installed on their XP, Vista and Windows 7 operating system. You will be adequately protected without dealing with all the annoyances that come with most 3rd-party firewalls. Additionally, third-party firewalls confuse users with unnecessary warnings and can and do block legitimate programs from smaller companies that require access to the Internet.

In short, third-party firewalls cause more confusion than necessary and don't really provide any additional protection for users who install and maintaining a good antivirus program and one or more antispyware software programs.

But to recap: If you are running Windows XP, Windows Vista, and Windows 7, don't buy or install a third party firewall. Make sure your Windows Firewall is turned on. If you don't have a firewall, and your computer is connected to the internet, you NEED to get one!

CLASSES AVAILABLE FOR NEXT 30 DAYS

File Management – August 14 – 9 am to noon

Digital Photography, Camera to Computer – August 21 – 1-4 pm

PC Maintenance, Protect & Recover – August 22 – 10 am to noon

Microsoft PowerPoint Workshop – August 22 – 1-3 pm

Basic Windows 7 - September 3 & 5 – 10-noon

Security—September 4 —1-4 pm

Genealogy Interest Group – Aug 18—10 am

**WELCOME TO OUR JULY
COMPUTER CLUB NEW MEMBERS**

(Rick) Broderick Billeter	Jack Manos
Sandra Stith	Peter Murray
Amanda Goldsborough	Tom Goldsborough
James Holliday	Stacie Lange
Paul A. Morton	Linda Lloyd
Jack Igleburger	Temple Igleburger

MICROSOFT'S NEW EMAIL PROGRAM

"OUTLOOK.COM"

Microsoft introduced a new email client recently called Outlook.com, a personal version of its already widely used brand.

Outlook.com is Microsoft's latest stab at an email service and essentially replaces Hotmail as the company's primary email service. A preview of the service is available for anyone to try [here](#).

"We realized that we needed to take a bold step, break from the past and build you a brand new service from the ground up," Microsoft said in a [post](#). "Now, in addition to a desktop application and a service for businesses, we're offering Outlook as a personal email service - Outlook.com."

Microsoft says Outlook.com is a "modern email designed for the next billion mailboxes," and the company has added a few features that make it stand out a bit. Outlook.com will let users sync their accounts with various social networks, including Facebook and Twitter, as well as [Skype](#) sometime soon.

"In the Outlook.com inbox, your personal email comes alive with photos of your friends, recent status updates and Tweets that your friend has shared with you, the ability to chat and video call," Microsoft said.

The new service is also cloud-based and will sync users' email, contacts and calendar across various devices. This is nothing new, but at least Microsoft is keeping pace.

The Redmond, Wash., company is also addressing the issue of cluttered in-boxes by sorting messages depending on who they're from.

Outlook.com also includes free Office Web Apps, so users can open and edit attachments right from their inbox. A nifty feature indeed.

The service is free and Microsoft says it has "virtually unlimited storage."

Hotmail users can easily launch the new client by going into their options menu and clicking "Upgrade," according to Microsoft. They can also acquire a new "@outlook.com" email address if they wish.

Users of other email clients, including Gmail and Yahoo, can also use Outlook.com to manage their emails. Microsoft says those users can also add an "@outlook.com" email if they'd like.

"This will let you use both services for now, but we think that over time, most people will prefer Outlook.com," the company said.

5 REASONS THE NEW CLOUD-BASED OUTLOOK.COM BEATS WINDOWS 8 MAIL

Microsoft [just released a preview version of its new cloud-based Outlook.com email service](#), and it's a winner, much better than Windows 8's underpowered Mail app. Here are five reasons it beats Windows 8 mail.

You can create mail rules

Anyone beset by email overload -- which means everyone who uses email -- needs tools to help manage their mail. Chief among them is the ability to create mail rules that will automate the handling of messages, for example, automatically sending mail from your boss to a Boss folder, from your family to a Family folder, and so on. Outlook.com does it. Windows 8 Mail doesn't.

You can create mail folders

It may well be that I'm missing something (and please tell me if I am), but I can't seem to find a way to do one of the most basic things possible in the Windows 8 Mail app in Hotmail -- creating new folders. It's a breeze to do on [Outlook.com](#).

It uses threaded messaging

Following a lengthy conversation in Windows 8 Mail can be a very confusing experience, because it doesn't use threaded messaging. (Or at least I haven't found out how to do it.) That means you'll have to hunt through old email to find all previous messages in the conversation. Outlook.com, just like the client version of Outlook, includes threaded messaging.

More and better options for responding to mail

On Outlook.com, there's an Actions link on each of your incoming emails. Click it and you get a slew of options for taking action on the mail, including replying, forwarding, deleting, marking it as junk, marketing it as unread, deleting all messages from the sender, printing it, viewing the message source, and more. You don't get nearly that many options in the Windows 8 Mail client.

It's far more customizable

Outlook.com is more like a mail client than a cloud-based mail service in many ones, one of which is the many options you get for customizing the way it looks and works, including configuring fonts, your signature, changing privacy settings, and much more. Windows 8 doesn't offer nearly as many options.

Provided by Preston Gralla, contributing editor to Computer World, July 31, 2012

Open house for Computer Repair & Help for club members at the Computer Club:

Aug. 15 (10-1 pm) Sept. 1st (10-1 pm)

Sept. 5th (1-4 pm)

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

If It Ain't Broke...Don't Fix It **Installing drivers you don't need might cause unexpected problems**

All Windows users

We've had hundreds of rewarding **Cloudeight Direct Computer Care** sessions since we started our computer repair service. And we have learned a lot about how people use their computers and even more about common concerns. During our visits to other computers around the world we've seen a lot of problems caused by programs which constantly search for and install the latest hardware drivers. And it sounds like a jolly good idea, right? In theory, you'd think that installing new drivers for your devices would be the thing to do. But in practice it can sometimes lead to some really bad things.

The more computers we see the more we realize that the best thing we can say about updating drivers is: Don't do it unless your device isn't working properly. If your printers, mice, display, scanners, etc. are working fine, don't install new drivers just because their new drivers. Installing drivers is serious business and a bad driver or one that's not compatible with your computer's unique environment may cause you all kinds of problems.

The time to worry about new drivers is when one of your hardware devices isn't working as it should. A new driver could definitely help you in that situation. But if all is well, leave well enough alone.

The old adage..."If it ain't broke don't fix it" is a good rule of thumb for all of us computer users to remember when it comes to updating drivers, at least.

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