

Bits and Bytes

December 2012

Arkansas' Premier Computer Club

Bella Vista Computer Club - John Ruehle Center

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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MICROSOFT STOPS SUPPORTING WINDOWS XP?

When Microsoft ends support for Windows XP in April 2014, Windows XP will not stop working. It will continue to work and all your programs will continue to work and everything will seem normal. What will happen is, you won't get anymore security updates, patches or fixes from Windows Update. This will leave your computer increasingly vulnerable over time as miscreants target XP users whose computers will become increasingly more vulnerable. Using Windows XP past April 2014 will increase your exposure to security exploits and possibly put your personal information at risk. But Windows XP will continue to work and so will all your programs.

NOVEMBER NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Paul Davis	Albert Snider
Mike Moyer	Carol Moyer
Arlyn Engelden	Marshall Ray
Steve Wanasek	Jo Bain
Don Doty	Wayne Horner
Eugene Pohl	Sonja Pohl
Marilyn McGlothlin	

Thanks for joining the Computer Club!

Diane has an XP laptop -- would it be a good idea to upgrade to Windows 8 Pro?

My main computer is a Windows 7; but I have a small laptop that is XP. Would it be worthwhile for me to take advantage of Microsoft's special to upgrade the XP to Win8? I was thinking that would be a good way for me to ease into Win8, without giving up my Win7.

Our answer

Hi Diane. Since Windows 8 Pro is only \$39.99 until the end of January, it might be an excellent way for you to learn Windows 8, while keeping Windows 7 on your main computer. Once you get past the start page tiles, Windows 8 is very similar to Windows 7.

You'll need to make sure your Windows XP laptop is capable of running Windows 8 though. Microsoft's Windows 8 upgrade assistant <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-8/upgrade-to-windows-8> will determine that for you.

If Windows 8 were \$100 or more, we'd be telling you not to buy it for your older laptop computer. It may not be worth that much since your laptop is getting older. However, at \$39.99 it would be worth it. Then when you buy a newer laptop with Windows 8 on it, you'd be all set -- unless you waited so long that Windows 9 was out by then.

But Windows 9 is at least 3 years away....

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

20 MUST KNOW TIPS AND TRICKS **FOR WINDOWS 8**

Windows 8 is rife with features and behaviors that conspire to perplex even the most experienced PC users. Not all of them are bad, per se, but few of them are immediately intuitive. Making matters worse, the OS was primarily designed for touch control, and as a result, many mouse and keyboard commands feel like tacked-on afterthoughts.

We've assembled a list of our favorite Windows 8 shortcuts, tricks, and workarounds. Now let's start our journey of discovery with a look at easy-to-use (though often tough to remember!) Windows 8 hotkey commands. Employ the hottest hotkeys we know

In these key combinations, hold down the Windows key (normally located between Alt and Ctrl) and another key, as described on this list.

- Press the Windows key to enter the tiled Start screen.
- The Windows key + M minimizes everything that's showing on the desktop.
- The Windows key + E opens Explorer for quick access to folders.
- On the Start screen, press the Windows key + D to instantly get to the desktop.
- The Windows key + Tab opens a list of currently running programs.
- The Windows key + Print Screen takes a screenshot and saves it in a Screenshots folder nested in your Pictures folder.
- To take a screenshot on a Windows 8 tablet simultaneously press the button and the volume-down button on the tablet chassis.
- The Windows key + Q opens a global search menu. Type what you're looking for and where you would like to look.
- The Windows key + W opens a search in your system settings to quickly locate and change system properties.
- The Windows key + F opens a file and folder search.
- The Windows key + Pause opens the system properties page to show you a quick rundown of your specs.
- The Windows key + "," (that's the comma sign!) makes all current windows transparent, giving you a peek at the desktop as long as you hold down the Windows key.
- The Windows key + "." (the period) snaps a window to the right or left side (toggling each time you press ".").
- The Windows key + R prompts the Run command—useful for quickly launching apps and other routines with a command prompt.
- The Windows key + X opens the Quick Access Menu, exposing system functionality such as the Command Prompt, Disk Management, File Explorer, Run, and more. Alternatively, you can right-click on the bottom right corner of the screen to spawn the Quick Access Menu.
- The Windows key + I opens the settings menu, giving you quick access to the Control Panel, Personalization, and your Power button, among other features.
- The Windows key + O locks orientation on devices with an accelerometer.

A tip for the season: Why you should always use a credit card when you shop online

All computer users

There is hardly a day that goes by when we are not contacted by someone who's been a victim of some scam or fraud - most of them are victims of rogue security programs.

We cannot stress enough how important it is that when you purchase online you use a credit card. Yes, there are some of you who insist you'll never use a credit card online - and we've told you over and over again if you buy from Wal-Mart, Target, Walgreen's, or any major retailer or restaurant and you use a credit card, you're already buying online. The only difference is instead of typing your credit card number, it's being read from the magnetic strip on the back of your card. Numbers are numbers whether scanned or typed - and those transactions are all being done online just as certainly as if you were sitting at home on your computer.

When you pay by credit card online you're getting extra free insurance. Most credit card companies will not hold you liable for a single penny if you buy stuff on the Internet that turns out to be garbage -- or if your credit card is used without your authorization. And, if you are charged for something you don't want, or that is garbage when you get it, or that doesn't work when you get it, guess what? You can call your credit card company and have that charge immediately removed. So you have insurance that someone who pays with cash or check doesn't have. Try getting your cash back from some of these Internet companies. It may take you months to get our money back - if you ever do.

So besides using a credit card to protect yourself when buying online, what else can you do? You can report any scams or frauds you've seen to one of the following:

http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/fraud/internet_fraud

<http://www.fraud.org/info/repoform.htm>

<http://www.reportinginternetfraud.com/>
http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Internet_Fraud.shtml
<http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>
<http://www.consumerfraudreporting.org/reporting.php>

Protect yourself when shopping online and use a credit card. We use credit cards online all the time. We like PayPal because when we use PayPal we don't have to type in our credit card information every time - and the vendor we're ordering from never sees our credit card information. PayPal is one of the largest credit card processors in the world and one of the most trusted. If you don't have a PayPal account, you should look into getting one.

Oh, and another thing. There are always vocal minorities who have problems with things most people don't whether it be cars, airlines, credit card companies, Wal-Mart, Target, restaurants, and yes, PayPal. Remember - these are vocal individuals who don't really back up their complaints with facts. Usually they use hearsay to backup their rants. Don't listen to the voices of those powerless few who are looking for empowerment by ranting and raving against everything. We've been using credit cards online for over a decade and we've never had a single problem. We've used PayPal thousands of times and never had a problem.

Do yourself a favor and use your credit card for all online purchases and do everyone else a favor by reporting fraudsters and scammers.

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

December 19th (10 -1 pm)

January 2nd (1-4 pm)

January 5th (10 -1 pm)

The following article was provided by a Bella Vista Computer Club member:

NETWORK SERVICES FINDS UNIQUE RECIPE FOR PRINTER REPAIR: "BAKING"

Sometimes the Network Services Department must think outside the box to fix computer issues, and that ingenious thinking recently lead them inside the oven.

When Debbie Wendorf of Marketing at HQ was having trouble with her printer, she sent a request to the Network Services Help Desk.

"I continually had to turn my printer off and then on for my computer to recognize it, and then even that stopped working." she said. "Even when I selected other printers in the Marketing Department, the printing process was extremely slow."

But she never could have guessed how the problem would be fixed. After researching the issue, Network Technician Phil Schroeder discovered that there have been problems with some HP printer formatter boards, which is the component that controls the logic and timing operation of the printer. A new greener manufacturing process has resulted in weaker solder joints and connections on the board.

"One of my co-workers, Matt White, had mentioned he heard about this issue and a unique fix," said Schroeder. "I searched the Internet and found several others who were having the same problems with this model of printer, and they had baked the formatter boards in the oven with good success."

The recipe was fairly simple., Schroeder baked the circuit board for eight minutes at 375 degrees. As a result, the weakened and loose solder joints flowed back together to make contact.

"I guess it's kind of like Bill Gates meets Betty Crocker," he joked. "We have successfully fixed a few printers by using this method."

When Schroeder reinstalled the board in Wendorf's printer, she was able to print again without any

problems. She was amazed that an oven was part of the solution.

"What's next?" she asked, "Fixing my mouse with a dishwasher?"

The Auto Clubber "Auto Club Bimonthly Employee Publication " (June/July 2012)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We recommend you don't try this at home!)

Hidden Send-to Menu in Windows 7 Windows 7 all versions

When you right click on an file or folder in Windows Explorer the default Send To menu contains only a few locations. But there is a hidden Send-to menu in Windows 7 and all you have to do to access is hold down the Shift key while right-clicking a file or folder.

Holding down the Shift key while right-clicking expands the Send-to menu with at least than ten additional entries like My Documents folders, Downloads or Contacts.

GENEALOGY INTEREST GROUP meets at 10 a.m., December 15th at the John Ruhle Center

REMEMBER: To check for classes offered by the Bella Vista Computer Club go to our web site posted in the title block on page 1 and check the calendars for December and January. Call Marie Herr (273-2558) for more information and to pre-register.

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS:

Jan: "Questions & Answers"

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