

# Bits and Bytes

May 2014

*Arkansas' Premier Computer Club*

## Bella Vista Computer Club - John Ruehle Center

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

Web Site: [www.bvcompclub.org](http://www.bvcompclub.org)

E-mail: [jrc@bvcc.arcoxmail.com](mailto:jrc@bvcc.arcoxmail.com)

**Richard Clark, President**

Don Hood, Newsletter Editor

### WHAT IS SMARTSCREEN FILTER AND HOW CAN IT HELP ME ?

SmartScreen Filter is a feature in Internet Explorer that helps detect phishing websites. SmartScreen Filter can also help protect you from downloading or installing malware (malicious software).

SmartScreen Filter helps to protect you in three ways:

- As you browse the web, it analyses webpages and determines if they have any characteristics that might be suspicious. If it finds suspicious webpages, SmartScreen will display a message giving you an opportunity to provide feedback and advising you to proceed with caution.
- SmartScreen Filter checks the sites you visit against a dynamic list of reported phishing sites and malicious software sites. If it finds a match, SmartScreen Filter will show you a warning notifying you that the site has been blocked for your safety.
- SmartScreen Filter checks files that you download from the web against a list of reported malicious software sites and programs known to be unsafe.

(continue on next column)

### FUTURE MEETING PROGRAMS

**June** Windows Operating Systems – Should I Upgrade?

**July** Q & A with a Panel of Experts

**Aug.** Ways and Places to Store and Display Your Photos.  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

### Open houses for Computer Repair & Help

**May 21st (10 am—1 pm) (Wednesday)**

**June 4th (1 pm — 4 pm) (Wednesday)**

**June 7th (10 am —1 pm) (Saturday)**

Smart Filters..... If it finds a match, SmartScreen Filter will warn you that the download has been blocked for your safety. SmartScreen Filter also checks the files that you download against a list of files that are well known and downloaded by many Internet Explorer users. If the file that you're downloading isn't on that list, SmartScreen Filter will warn you.

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows7/smartscreen-filter-frequently-asked-questions-ie9>

## **BEFORE YOU CLOSE A FROZEN PROGRAM –TRY THIS TIP TO PREVENT LOSING DATA**

Windows 7 and Windows 8.x

In earlier versions of Windows if a program froze (hung, locked-up) there was nothing you could do about but kill the program using Task Manager/Processes/End Process. But Windows 7 users have at least a shot at un-freezing the program - plus you may get a nifty explanation of the problem too. And using this method to unlock or un-freeze a program will allow you recover the program without losing any data. Keep in mind this does not work all of the time, but it does work some of the time and that's a much better chance than you had in earlier versions of Windows. In those earlier versions, you had no chance to unlock a frozen program at all.

The next time you have an application that is frozen or hanging, do this:

Click Start, type RESMON in the start menu search.

When RESMON.EXE appears at the top click it to launch the Resource Monitor.

Switch to the CPU tab (this tab should be the default) and find your frozen program which should be easy since it will be highlighted in red. Right-click on the application and choose "Analyze Wait Chain".

If you see at least two processes in the list, the one that is furthest down is the one instance of the program that is hanging. Before proceeding -- just to be safe -- save any open work in any other programs you may have open. Now, you're ready to proceed, right? Check the box next to the hanging process (program), click "End Process", and your frozen, locked-up program should come back to life.

*copyright 2008 by Cloudeight Internet. <http://thundercloud.net/infoave/index.html>*

## **WHAT IS THE WORST WAY TO SAVE YOUR PASSWORDS?**

You might guess..."writing them down?" But you'd be wrong. Writing them down isn't good but it's much better than allowing Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Chrome to remember them for you. Why is that you ask?

Well, we're glad you asked that question! It not only gives us a chance to answer you, but to add a little filler too. You know, some padding, some drivel, some inane humor.

Seriously, allowing your favorite browser to store your passwords is about the worst thing you could do...but even worse is allowing your browser to store your passwords and using a Windows account that is not password protected. But worst of all if you have a laptop and you let your browser store your passwords and use a Windows account that is not password protected.

Why? We're glad you asked that. Because allowing your browser to store your passwords is really bad -- anyone who can access your computer can also access any account for which you use a password -- including your banking, shopping, and other financial sites. And if you take your laptop with you when you travel and you let your browser remember your passwords and you don't password protect your Windows user account, then anyone who picks up your laptop (or steals it) will also be able to steal all your money.

So don't ever allow your browser to store your passwords. Get yourself a good free password manager like [LastPass](#) and let it keep track of your passwords. You must use a master password to unlock all your other passwords, and LastPass can be set to automatically log you out after a certain interval, like five minutes.

*copyright 2008 by Cloudeight Internet. <http://thundercloud.net/infoave/index.html>*

GENEALOGY SIG MEETING 10 am  
May 17—Saturday—John Ruele Center

## A HIDDEN WINDOWS FEATURE “WIPE FREE DISK SPACE WITH A SIMPLE COMMAND”

(Windows XP, Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8x)

It's no secret (or at least, it shouldn't be) that when you delete files or folders in Windows, they're not actually erased—the space they took up is simply marked as "available for use," which allows the files to be recoverable (with the right software) until they're overwritten with new data.

There is a utility built-into Windows (even XP Pro, Vista, Windows 7, and Windows 8) that will overwrite all the free space on a hard drive, insuring any files you've deleted stay dead. Press the Windows Key plus the “R” key and type:

**cipher /w:C** (where C is the letter of the drive you want to wipe). So if you want to wipe drive C, type: **cipher /w:C** . If you want to wipe drive D, type **cipher /w:D** . Please note the space between cipher and the forward slash.

Also, it's important to note that wiping the free space on your drives or partitions does not affect any of your data or programs. It merely wipes the space Windows shows as free to use. Be patient, this process can take a long time if you have a large amount of free space.

```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe - cipher /w:c
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7600]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Joseph>cipher /w:c
To remove as much data as possible, please close all other applications while
running CIPHER /W.
Writing 0x00
.....
Writing 0xFF
.....
Writing Random Numbers
.....
```

(continue next column.....)

[http://www.pcmag.com/slideshow\\_viewer/0,3253,l=255105&a=255105&po=8,00.asp](http://www.pcmag.com/slideshow_viewer/0,3253,l=255105&a=255105&po=8,00.asp)

**Editors Note:** I tried this program on my Windows 7 computer in which I had approximately 284 GB amount of free space. As shown in the box, the program requests to close all applications to speed up the process of wiping the drive. The program start to write “0x00” and then follows with writing 0”xFF” and writing over it with random numbers. It took approximately three and one half (3 1/2) hours to completely over write the drive. Allow for plenty of time when you are not actively using your computer.

## WHEN “X” DOESN'T CLOSE THE PROGRAM

Many programs, especially programs like copy/paste programs, email-checking programs, and programs that insert graphics into emails or web pages, will not close by clicking the "X" in the upper right hand corner of the program; clicking the "X" will minimize the program to your system tray instead. Some programs are designed this way, not to be difficult to be closed but because of the type of program they are. So, to be sure you are closing (exiting) a program, especially one you are not familiar with, choose File, Exit. You can also right-click the program's icon and choosing "Exit" to close it. Using these methods ensures the program is closed and not simply minimized. This is especially useful if you're trying to uninstall a program. You cannot uninstall a program that is running.

copyright 2008 by Cloudeight Internet. <http://thundercloud.net/infoave/index.html>

## Computer Club Classes

Digital Photography, Part 2 "Camera to Computer" (2 hrs.) May 13, 9 am to noon

Using Windows 8.1, Part 3 "Projects" (3 hrs.)  
May 14, 9 am to noon

Setting Up Windows 8.1 (3 hrs.)  
May 20, 9 am to noon

Understanding Windows 7 (4 hrs.)  
May 20 & May 22, 1 to 3 pm

Windows 8.1 Mail People Applications (2 hrs.)  
May 22, 10 am to noon

Understanding Windows 8.1 (4 hrs.)  
June 3 & June 5, 10 am to noon

PC Maintenance Part 2 "Protect & Recover" 2  
hrs.) June 4, 10 am to noon

Pre-registration is required for all classes  
and are free to all Computer Club mem-  
bers. Call Marie Herr (273-2558) for more  
information and to pre-register. 5 mem-  
bers are required for each class.

## PIN FOLDERS TO TASKBAR

You already know that you can right-click  
your favorite programs and pin them to the  
Windows 7 Taskbar for easy access.  
Right? Although there's no such option for  
folders, there is another way to keep them  
close at hand on the Taskbar. Right-click  
any folder, drag it to an empty space on  
the Taskbar (or to the Windows Explorer  
button), and let go when "Pin to Windows  
Explorer" appears. Now when you right-  
click the Windows Explorer button, your  
folders will be accessible via the Jump List.

## Welcome New Members

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Dan Beck         | Mary Beck       |
| John Chang       | Grace Chang     |
| Ron Madsen       | Arlo McDowell   |
| Charles Taunton  | Sandy Bugner    |
| Carmen Phillips  | Judy Kelly      |
| Kathleen Woxland | Stephen Woxland |
| Gert Zegler      |                 |

## **Melody wants to know if renaming execut- able files will render them invalid**

When I look at the setup names, it can be  
confusing to know what they are as they are  
not always self-explanatory. If I rename the  
setup file to something more recognizable,  
will it mess up the file in any way? I know that  
may sound dumb, but I am sure other less  
techno competent people might wonder that  
as well! thanks for your extremely valuable  
assistance.

### **Our answer**

Thank you, Melody! You ask a great question  
here. And it is probably a question that many  
have wondered about from time to time. You  
can rename files to anything you want as  
long you don't change the extension. You're  
right, many programs come with installers  
with arcane, esoteric names. For instance  
ff31.exe could be renamed firefox31.exe.  
Giving files names that mean something to  
you is a great system to use if you're going to  
be keeping files on a flash drive for safekeep-  
ing. Digital photos are also given weird  
names when you save them from your digital  
camera's media. Names like DSC31041.jpg  
aren't going to mean much to you a year from  
now - but uncle-jim-80th-birthday-party.jpg  
will.

*copyright 2008 by Cloudeight Internet. [http://  
thundercloud.net/infoave/index.html](http://thundercloud.net/infoave/index.html)*

## HOTKEY A WINDOW BETWEEN MONITORS

Want an easy and mouse-free way to move  
windows around a display or, better yet, be-  
tween multiple monitors? When you press the  
Windows key + the left or right arrow key, the  
active window will move from its original posi-  
tion and anchor itself to the edge of the screen  
in the direction of the arrow, and it will do so  
across every monitor you have. Similarly, if  
you press Windows + SHIFT + left or right ar-  
row, the active window will jump over to the  
same position on the adjacent monitor (so if  
you only have two monitors, it doesn't matter  
which arrow key you use). [http://www.pcmag.com/  
slideshow\\_viewer/0,3253,I=255105&a=255105&po=10,00.asp](http://www.pcmag.com/slideshow_viewer/0,3253,I=255105&a=255105&po=10,00.asp)