

# Bits and Bytes

October 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

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

**Richard Clark, President**

Don Hood, Newsletter Editor

### Open houses for Computer

#### Repair & Help

**Oct 15 - (10 am—1 pm) (Wednesday)**

**Nov 1 - (10 am — 1 pm) (Saturday)**

**Nov 5 - (1 pm —4 pm) (Wednesday)**

### IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON SELLING OR GIVING AWAY YOUR COMPUTER

If you're getting ready to sell or give away a computer there are two things you need to do:

1. Get rid of everything on your hard drive by wiping it with DBAN
2. Reinstall the operating system

You can get Darik's Boot and Nuke (DBAN) from this link (<http://www.dban.org/>). Here is Darik's description: "*Darik's Boot and Nuke ("DBAN") is a self-contained boot disk that securely wipes the hard disks of most computers. DBAN will automatically and completely delete the contents of any hard disk that it can detect, which makes it an appropriate utility for bulk or emergency data destruction. DBAN is a means of ensuring due diligence in computer recycling, a way of preventing identity theft if you* (continue on next column)

*want to sell a computer, and a good way to totally clean a Microsoft Windows installation of viruses and spyware."*

A word of caution. DBAN will totally obliterate everything on your hard drive and overwrite it with gibberish so nothing can ever be recovered from it even using forensic software. So make sure you've saved whatever you want to save before you use DBAN.

If you're selling or giving away your old computer – it would be nice if you reinstalled Windows before you give it away or sell it. It won't be of much use to anyone without an operating system on it — unless the person you're selling it to or giving it to knows it won't have an operating system. If you don't have the Windows installation disk, use the manufacturer's recovery partition to restore the computer to its factory state. Using DBAN only erases the operating system drive, usually C:\. All manufacturers who use recovery partitions put those partitions on separate drive. The separate drive will not be erased by DBAN.

If you're not sure how to use your recovery partition, visit your computer manufacturer's web site and search for "recovery partition". Maybe that's something you know anyway whether you're selling your computer, giving it away or keeping it.

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**WINDOWS 7'S SLOW SUNSET  
CONTINUES WITH OCTOBER 31,  
2014 DEADLINE**

As PC users anxiously await the release of Windows 9 (now identified as Windows 10), many are beginning to worry about the latest impending deadline for Windows 7. On the Windows lifecycle fact sheet, Microsoft notes that it will no longer provide copies of Windows 7 Home Basic, Home Premium or Ultimate to third-party manufacturers for inclusion on new consumer PCs.

This means that the current stock of computers with Windows 7 preinstalled is the among the last that will ever be commercially available. It's probably safe to assume this was originally meant to push consumers toward Windows 8, but it might end up convincing them to skip the current generation all together once the technical preview for Windows 9 or 10 becomes available to the public.

Business users aren't going to be affected by the October 31st deadline — the end of sales date for Windows 7 Professional still hasn't been established and Microsoft promises that it will provide at least one year of notice before the cutoff.

Finally, in regards to Windows 7 becoming the next Windows XP, Don't fret: mainstream support for Windows 7 with Service Pack 1 doesn't end until January 13th, 2015 and extended support will last until at least January 14th, 2020. At this point, Microsoft is just hoping that enough users upgrade to Windows 9 to justify either of the support deadlines.

<http://bgr.com/2014/09/24/windows-7-end-of-sales/>

Genealogy Special Information Group will meet at 10 AM **October 18th** at the John Ruehle Center.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS  
TO BELLA VISTA COMPUTER**

Peggy Gravning	Andrea Conway
Elbert Isom	Jeanne Isom
Rosemary Schwab	Bill Schwab
Trudy M Baird	Caroline Blomeyer
Rhonda Davis	Louise Straub

**HOME DEPOT JOINS LIST OF  
RETAILERS WHO HAVE BEEN  
HACKED**

*The Home Depot today confirmed that its payment systems were breached by hackers earlier this year. The company is yet to outline the details of the attack, but used vague language to suggest that customers who used credit or debit cards at its retail stores in the US and Canada over the last five months may have had their card details compromised. The breach appears to have been carried out using a similar method to recent attacks on companies such as Target, P.F. Chang's, and Neiman Marcus. The perpetrators of such attacks uploaded malicious software to cash registers and other point-of-sale systems in order to siphon off card details, which could be sent off-site and could be used to make fraudulent purchases.*

*The scale of the breach is unclear*

The Home Depot says its investigation into the breach began on September 2nd, the same day that reports surfaced that said the retailer was the next in a string of large companies to be targeted by hackers. The hardware giant is focusing its investigation from April onwards, suggesting that the hackers behind the breach were able to skim customer data from the stores' payment systems for up to five months without being detected.

*Rich McCormick* on September 8, 2014 09:01 pm  
<http://www.theverge.com/2014/9/8/6124529/home-depot-hacked-credit-card-details-at-risk>

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

**Olstan has problems with Windows Updates:** I am sending this from my wife's computer, I have a key for my own computer. This morning I received a Windows Update (my computer). For several hours now my computer is stuck on "Configuring Windows updates 67%complete Do not turn off computer". I turned off computer at the wall and let the battery run down then rebooted. It started off configuring and is stuck on the 67% again. Is there any way you could access my computer to fix this problem.

#### **Our answer**

Hi Olstan. In order for us to help you, you would need to be booted into Windows (Safe Mode with Networking is fine, if you can't boot into normal Windows.

When those updates run, if they are major, they can take a couple of hours to install. Interrupting the installation of Windows updates can corrupt the updates and is also hard on your Windows installation -- and can even make your computer unbootable.

If you turned your computer off while Windows Updates was running and installing updates, you probably did some damage to your Windows system..

Here's what we suggest you do:

1. Turn off your computer completely and leave it off for at least 2 minutes.
2. Turn it back on, and then as quickly as possible, start tapping your F8 key until you get a screen with boot options - choose Safe Mode. Once it boots into safe mode, do a system restore back a few days - before the update issue started, and that should get you up and running.

Always be patient when installing Windows updates, using System Restore, or using CHKDSK -- interrupting any of these while they're in progress by turning off your computer is just asking for major Windows problems, even rendering your PC unbootable. If one of these processes seems to be taking longer than it should, don't panic. Walk away from your computer for a couple of

hours and come back. A good percentage of the time, when you come back you will find that everything has completed normally and Windows is running fine.

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## **SOME RARE WINDOWS SHORTCUTS FOR YOU**

Windows 7, Windows 8x

Here are some arcane Windows keyboard shortcuts you might find handy.

**Windows Key+T:** Focus and scroll through items on the taskbar. Repeatedly pressing **Windows Key + T:** cycles through all the programs in your task bar

**Windows Key+B:** Focuses the System Tray icons.

**Drag+Drop taskbar buttons or System Tray icons:** to reorganize them.

**Shift+Click on a taskbar button:** Open a program or quickly open another instance of a program.

**Ctrl+Shift+Click on a taskbar button:** Open a program as an administrator.

**Shift+Right-click on a taskbar button:** Show the window menu for the program (like XP does).

**Shift+Right-click on a grouped taskbar button:** Show the window menu for the group.

**Ctrl+Click on a grouped taskbar button:** Cycle through the windows of the group.

**Drag a File to a taskbar button:** to pin the file to the current application's Jump List.

**Shift+Drag a File to a taskbar button:** to open a file with the current application.

**Middle-Click on a taskbar button:** to open a new instance of the application.

**Left-Click + Drag upwards:** to open the Jump List for an application.

Don't you just love Windows keyboard shortcuts? If you commit your favorites to memory, they can really save you time!

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November Program Topic: "**Genealogy**"  
A new Laptop will be raffled off to attendees

## MICROSOFT CHRISTENS THE NEXT VERSION OF WINDOWS AS WINDOWS 10

**Summary:** Call it 'Threshold' no more. The next and last major version of Microsoft's Windows client operating system will be called Windows 10 when it is released next year.

While many of the features expected in the next major version of Microsoft's Windows client operating system have leaked over the past few months, the official name of that operating system had not.

But on September 30, during [a preview event for that operating system](#), Microsoft officials took the wraps off the new name, which is Windows 10.

During the Microsoft planning and early development process, Windows 10 was code named "Threshold." That code name, like a number of recent Microsoft ones, came from Microsoft's Halo franchise.

Because the most recent version of Microsoft's Windows client was named Windows 8, many assumed the next release would be Windows 9. Many inside and outside the company used "Threshold" and "Windows 9" interchangeably when discussing the coming Windows release. There have been rumors that Microsoft might opt to christen Threshold as ["Windows X,"](#) ["Windows 365,"](#) just plain ["Windows"](#) or ["Windows One."](#)

But Microsoft went instead with Windows 10 because they wanted to signify that the coming Windows release would be the last "major" Windows update. Going forward, Microsoft is planning to make [regular, smaller updates to the Windows 10 codebase](#), rather than pushing out new major updates years apart. Windows 10 will have a common codebase across multiple screen sizes, with the UI tailored to work on those devices.

Microsoft is working on a number of related products and services that are part of the "Threshold" wave. The name of the version of Threshold that Microsoft is building to run on both ARM-based tablets and ARM-based Windows Phones is still not known. Nor is the "official" name of what some inside call Windows Server Threshold. (The most recent release of the Windows Server operating system is Windows Server 2012 R2.)

Microsoft is expected to release a preview test build of Windows 10 sometime in the next few days. The company is expected to finalize Windows 10 by the spring of 2015, according to sources.

By [Mary Jo Foley](#) for [All About Microsoft](#) | September 30, 2014 -- 17:11 GMT (10:11 PDT)

[http://www.zdnet.com/microsoft-christens-the-next-version-of-windows-as-windows-10-7000034196/?s\\_cid=e589&ttag=e589&ftag=TRec64629f#comments](http://www.zdnet.com/microsoft-christens-the-next-version-of-windows-as-windows-10-7000034196/?s_cid=e589&ttag=e589&ftag=TRec64629f#comments)

## CLASS SCHEDULE

**Windows 8.1 Mail and People Applications** Oct 14, Session 1 of 1, 10 am to noon

**Microsoft Excel 2010 & 2013**  
Oct 14, Session 1 of 2, 1 pm to 3 pm  
Oct 16, Session 2 of 2, 1 pm to 3 pm

**Digital Photography, Part 3,**  
**Photo Editing & Sharing**  
Oct 16, Session 1 of 1, 9 am to noon

**Microsoft Power Point 2010 & 2013**  
Nov 4, Session 1 of 2, 10 am to noon  
Nov 6, Session 2 of 2, 10 am to noon

**Microsoft Publisher 2010 & 2013**  
Nov 4, Session 1 of 2, 1 pm to 3 pm  
Nov 6, Session 2 of 2, 1 pm to 3 pm

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