Bits and Bytes   May 2015

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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Richard Clark, President

Don Hood, Newsletter Editor

CLASS SCHEDULE

Setting Up Windows 8.1
May 12, Session 1 of 1, 9 am to noon

Windows Live Mail (Windows 7 & 8.1)
May 12, Session 1 of 2, 1 pm to 3 pm
May 14, Session 2 of 2, 1 pm to 3 pm

PC Maintenance —Part 1—"Cleaning"
May 13 Session 1 of 1, 9 am to noon

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

Special Session To Be Announced
May 18. Session 1 of 1, 9 am to noon

Digital Photography— Part 1-"The Camera"
June 1, Session 1 of 1, 9 am to noon

PC Maintenance —Part 2—"Protect & Recover"
June 3 Session 1 of 1, 10 am to noon

Using Windows 8.1 —Part 2—"More Programs"
June 8, Session 1 of 1, 9 am to noon

Call Marie Herr (273-2558) for more information and to pre-register. **5 members are required for each class.** Desktop computers will be provided for all classes; however, students may bring their own laptops with power supply.

Genealogy sig meeting, May 16th,
10 a.m. - **John Ruehle Center**

WHAT IS THE MOTHERBOARD?

The motherboard serves to connect all of the parts of a computer together.
The CPU, memory, hard drives, optical drives, video card, sound card and other ports and expansion cards all connect to the motherboard directly or via cables. The motherboard is the piece of computer hardware that can be thought of as the "back bone" of the PC.

Important Motherboard Facts: Desktop motherboards, cases and power supplies all come in different sizes called form factors. All three must be compatible to work properly together.

Motherboards vary greatly in respect to the types of components they support. For example, each motherboard supports a single type of CPU and a short list of memory types. Additionally, some video cards, hard drives and other peripherals may not be compatible. The motherboard manufacturer should provide clear guidance on component compatibilities.

In laptops and tablets, and increasingly even in desktops, the motherboard often incorporates the functions of the video card and sound card. This helps keep these types of computers small in size.
Tim Fisher, PC Support Expert, http://pcsupport.about.com/od/componentprofiles/p/p_mobo.htm

SHOULD I TURN OFF AUTOMATIC UPDATES FOR WINDOWS?

You can turn off automatic updates but it is not advisable. Many of them will be minor tweaks and fixes for problems that probably won't affect you but in amongst the routine updates there are usually important or critical security patches. Automatic updates provide you with critical and important updates. These are meant to plug newly discovered loopholes and vulnerabilities that could be used to infect your machine, or allow hackers to get at your data, and those you do want.   Microsoft will also provide you with optional updates which are not automatically installed for you. The optional updates if desired have to be installed by the computer user. To take charge go to Control Panel menu and click Windows Updates. The opening page shows you the number of updates waiting to be installed, their relative importance, whether or not they are optional, and what they are for, so you can determine which ones you want. You still need the critical and important updates – including any and all security patches. If you click the Change Settings link you can decide whether or not to install them automatically, without consulting you, install them manually, at your convenience, when and how often to check for updates, or turn automatic updating off altogether.

It is believed by some experts that Microsoft has been using Windows Updates to push unnecessary driver updates, and other things like Bing Bar (several years ago) and other items not necessary for Windows 7 and 8 users. Sometimes computer problems have occurred due to unnecessary driver updates were pushed via Windows updates. It is suggested that users consider **unchecking Recommended updates** in the "Update Settings" while not altering the automatic downloads and installation of critical and important updates (the ones you need). So how do you turn off recommended updates without stopping critical and important updates (the ones you need)? (continue next column)

Select the "Control Panel" and then click "System and Security" and then choose and click on "Windows Update". On the left side and list of options include "Change settings". Click on "Change settings" which will bring up the following menu"
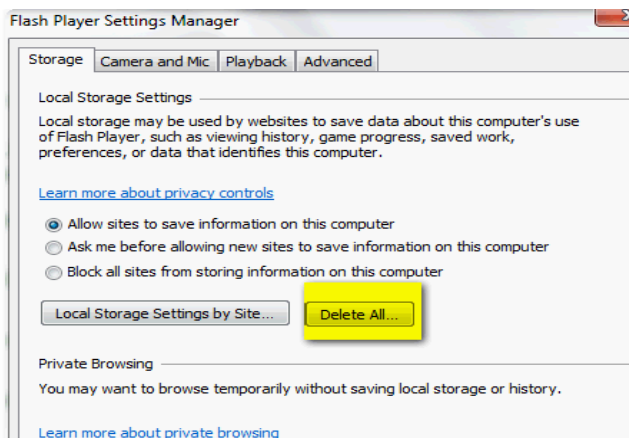

 The important thing here is that you continue to allow Important updates – but that you turn off recommended updates which can cause more problems than they solve.
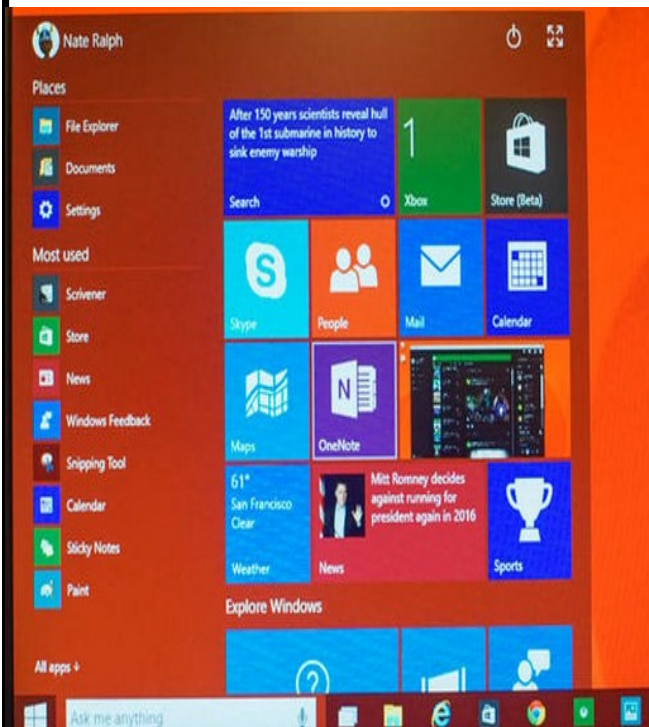
AN EASY WAY TO CLEAR YOUR FLASH PLAYER CACHE

It's really easy to clear your Flash Player cache and history. Here's how you do it: Open Control Panel, then Click on Flash Player (32 bit)

10 MAY JUST BE EVERYTHING THAT WINDOWS 8 SHOULD HAVE BEEN

The Windows 10 Technical Preview has come a long way. But there's still quite a bit left to iron out before the next generation of Windows is humming along on our PCs, tablets and phones. Microsoft still hasn't offered an official release date, and while we know that the company has committed to launching Windows 10 globally this summer, that leaves plenty of time for new features to make their way into the preview builds that many of us are running every day.

The latest build of Windows 10 (Build 10049) gives us a taste of Project Spartan, the browser that will put the nail in Internet Explorer's coffin. Microsoft's virtual assistant Cortana has made her way to the desktop in a slew of countries around the world. And there's still more to come. Windows Hello, for example, will bring biometric authentication to the operating system, letting you scan your face, finger or iris in lieu of typing a password.

Windows 10 is shaping up to be the best version of Windows yet -- a huge leap over Windows 8, which had a troubled reception. And upgrades to Windows 10 will be free for a year, for folks who are currently running Windows 7, Windows 8.1 and Windows Phone 8. There's no word on pricing after that (or for folks still running Windows XP), but if Microsoft has its way, we will have all made the switch by then anyway.

> **For Windows 7 and 8.1 users, Windows 10 will be free for one year. After that period – not to mention for standalone copies of the OS – the asking price is still a mystery.**

Boot up a PC running the Windows 10, and you'll be dropped off at the oh-so-familiar desktop. The Taskbar and its icons sit on the bottom, and the recycle bin sits in the upper-left corner. It looks, at first blush, like Windows 8 all over again.

But press the Start button, and you'll be greeted by the return of the Start menu. It's a proper Start menu too, with your most frequently used apps are stacked in a column. Press the All Apps button and you'll find the endless column of nested folders we've all been scrolling through since Windows 95, though they're now grouped alphabetically. Sitting alongside that column are Windows 8's animated Live Tiles, endlessly serving up news bites and social-network updates

http://www.cnet.com/products/microsoft-windows-10/#!

JUNE 8 PROGRAM

ELLEN CREAKBAUM, MS, RN, Nurse Educator, Schmieding Center Bella Vista

Her topic will be demonstrations of how to use new devices to improve our health and wellness. As we all know, new devices are being introduced all the time and this will be our chance to learn about them.

WELCOME NEW COMPUTER CLUB MEMBERS

Jerry   Shelton
Beverly   Shelton
Harrell   Simpson

Patricia asks how she can uninstall a program that is not listed in Control Panel / Remove programs

I have several programs I want to uninstall, but they are not listed in Control Panel? How on earth do I remove them from my computer? Do you have any idea how to uninstall them? Thanks!

Our answer
This is a good question, Patricia. Applications missing from Control Panel / Remove programs is common on all versions of Windows: You install a program and you use it for several weeks or months and then you decide to uninstall it. But somewhere during the time you were using it, strange things were going on in the nether regions of Windows. Most of the time it's not the fault of the program you've installed - it's another of those annoying Windows things that drive us all crazy from time to time. And sometimes too, some cleanup programs remove the uninstall dat files and this caused the program to disappear from Control Panel / Programs.
While Windows has gotten more stable and consistent since the old days of 95, 98, and ME, it still suffers from Microsoftitis - that's a disease that could be

eradicated or at least reduced if Microsoft wasn't always in such a rush to get its newest version to market. It looks like, finally, Windows 10 will be sleek and lean without the bloat of previous versions - but, only time will tell. OK time to try to help you solve your problem.

Here is the easiest solution:
Try Geek Uninstaller

Sometimes you can remove programs using Geek Uninstaller (free version) to force removal of programs that are not listed in Control Panel but which show up in Geek Uninstaller - this is rare but it's worth a try.

Reinstall the program:
Yes, this sounds silly and doesn't make a lot of sense but it works. The reason why the program isn't found in Control Panel is because its uninstall file has turned up missing or Windows can't find it.

If you reinstall the program it will put the uninstall file back and then it will be listed in the Remove Programs section of Control Panel/Programs. As soon as you reinstall the program, go to Control Panel, Programs, Remove Programs (on Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 10) or Control Panel, Add or Remove Programs in Windows XP, and uninstall the programs.

You can also try checking the installation folder:

You can also look in the folder in which the program is installed - usually in Program Files or Program Files(X86) - and look for a file called uninstall.exe, unwise.exe, uninstaller.exe, etc. This can be tricky though because different programs use different uninstaller file names and it's probably best not to be clicking on executables unless you really know what you're clicking.