

Bits and Bytes

July 2015

Arkansas' Premier Computer Club

Bella Vista Computer Club - John Ruehle Center

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Richard Clark, President

Don Hood, Newsletter Editor

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John Eagle

WINDOWS 10 AND WINDOWS MEDIA PLAYER

All Windows Users

In the June 2015 issue of "Bits & Bytes", [Say Farewell to Windows Media Center](#), it was reported Microsoft was not going to include Windows Media Center in Windows 10 and that it would not function with the new update. The article indicated computer users may want to consider installing a third party media Player like VLC Media Player. **Guess what!** Microsoft has listened to many complaints from users about the loss of Windows Media Center and has recently changed it mind. Microsoft is now including Windows Media Player in Windows 10 and it will play music, videos, and DVDs.

Since Windows 10 won't be released until late July, it possible other changes will be made by the software giant.

AUGUST PROGRAM

Annual Election of Officers & Board

Members

"Review of Windows 10"

CLASS SCHEDULE

Internet—Internet Explorer 11

July 14, Session 1 of 2, 10 am to noon

July 16, Session 2 of 2, 10 am to noon

Setting Up Windows 8.1

July 14, Session 1 of 1, 1 pm to 4 pm

File Management

July 16, Session 1 of 1, 1 pm to 4 pm

Windows 8.1 —Part 3— "Projects"

July 20, Session 1 of 1, 9 am to noon

Microsoft Excel 2010 & 2013

July 28, Session 1 of 2, 10 am to noon

July 30, Session 2 of 2, 10 am to noon

Microsoft Power Point (2010 & 2013)

July 28, Session 1 of 2, 1 pm to 3 pm

July 30, Session 2 of 2, 1 pm to 3 pm

Digital Photography — Part 3 — "Photo Editing & Sharing"

August 3, Session 1 of 1, 9 am to noon

Understanding Windows 8.1

August 4, Session 1 of 2, 10 am to noon

August 6, Session 2 of 2, 10 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. **CLASSES ARE FREE FOR CLUB MEMBERS**

COMPUTER TIP & TRICKS **“GETTING A FEW THINGS STRAIGHT”**

All Windows Users

Hackers

There a common misconception that the average Joe computer user, like you and me, are in grave danger from Rufus Wallbanger, slumped behind his computer somewhere in Eastern Europe, Moo Choo Wing Wang , somewhere in China, briskly looking for computers to "hack". But this isn't how it works. I'm really reluctant to tell you this but you are a low value target. No hacker is going to hack into your computer, no matter how important you think you are. It's now how it works. If Mr. Wallbanger and Mr. Wang, as hackers are worth their salt, they are going to be hacking high-value targets like retail stores, banks, credit card companies, governments, and so on, not you Joe, not me TC, not you Sally. Nope not even EB -she only thinks she's a high-value target.

So if you're one of the many who think they've been hacked, you haven't been.

The closest most of us will ever get to being hacked is foolishly downloading and installing malware which turns our computers into zombies and makes them part of a botnet. And while Mr. Wallbanger or Mr. Wang may be using hijacked computers to send spam or launch DDoS attacks, they didn't personally hunt down your computer and steal your stuff. You're not a high-value target I'm sorry to tell you.

You are quite safe from hackers.

Disk Defragmenters

Most of us who grew up with Windows 3.1 or Windows 95 were taught to defragment our disk regularly lest our computer become a slow heaping pile of junk. There were plenty of companies making defrag software who were happy to help you defrag your disks... some free, some not, and some malware.

And back in those days, defragging your hard drives was pretty important, although, I'm sure, not as important as those who were selling defrag software at the time would have liked you to believe.

But folks, this is 2015. Windows 95 is two decades old. Beginning with Windows 7, defragmenting hard drives is done automatically by Windows as part of its normal self-maintenance. Why, I would dare say Windows 7, 8, and 10 do a better job of maintaining themselves.

The fact that beginning with Windows 7, disk defragging is done automatically by Windows, has not stopped purveyors of fine software from pandering to the fears of those who think their hard drives will explode from fragmentation. I assure you they won't.

And if you have a solid state hard drive, or SSD as it's known to those who know, you don't need to defrag at all and Windows is smart enough to know this.

Shutting Off Your Computer

We have gone round and round on this one with many of our readers over the years. But finally, the consensus of those who call themselves experts and those who really are experts, is that shutting down your computer every night is not necessary and may shorten your computers life. Why? Because starting and stopping causes more wear and tear than putting a computer to sleep at night. Plus, when you wake a computer from sleep in the morning you can use it instantly; if you have to power it on each morning, it may take a while before you can use it. But then again, maybe some of you like to use that time to brew a pot of coffee.

There are no good reasons to shut your computer off at night. Put it to sleep. It will use barely any power and the few cents of electricity you may use will be well worth it, unless your time is worthless.

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HOW TO DISABLE YOUR LAPTOP TOUCHPAD

The touchpad has been the standard laptop pointing device for years. Since touchpads are built into a laptop, they work well when you don't want to carry around another pointing device. Even when a mouse or another pointing device is available, some users prefer the feel of a touchpad above anything else. But whether you love touchpads or just tolerate them, they still get in the way sometimes. When you're typing on a laptop's keyboard, it's common to brush against the touchpad and inadvertently send the cursor flying across the screen. You don't need to put up with that, however--here's how to turn it off.

The easiest way to disable a touchpad depends on the hardware. The good news is that manufacturers of modern laptops have tried to address the issue up front. On some notebooks, you'll find a physical switch to disable and enable the touchpad; look around the laptop's edge for it. The PC might also offer a keyboard shortcut (such as pressing **Fn** and **F7** simultaneously) to disable the touchpad or perhaps pressing a certain area of the touchpad itself will turn it off. Check your laptop's documentation for specific methods.

Disabling a Touchpad in Software

Some manufacturers provide ways of customizing and disabling the touchpad through software. **1.** Look for a touchpad icon in the notification area. Double-click or right-click it to browse the touchpad options; disable the touchpad from here if possible.



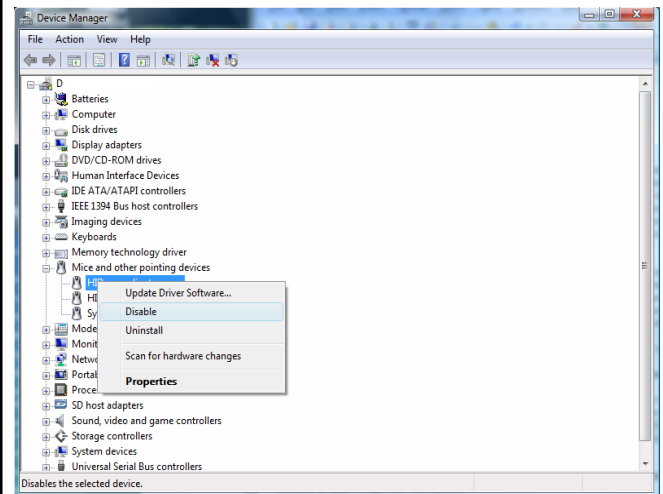
You can disable your touchpad from this menu.

2. If you don't find a touchpad icon in the notification area, click *Start, Control Panel, Hardware and Sound*. Under 'Devices and Printers', click *Mouse*. (In Vista, click *Start, Control Panel, Hardware and Sound, Mouse*.) The Mouse Properties

window will open; you might find a tab in that window where you can disable the touchpad. **3.** Look for a touchpad software entry in the Start menu if you can't find it in the notification area or under Mouse Properties.

One More Option: If you don't see a way to physically disable the touchpad or to disable it through software, you still have another option. You can also disable your touchpad in the Device Manager.

1. Click *Start*.
2. Type **device manager** into the Search box. Click the *device manager* result, and the Device Manager window will pop up.
3. Expand *Mice and other pointing devices*.
4. Right-click the touchpad's entry. In the menu that pops up, click *Disable*.



5. Confirm your choice in the pop-up window.

http://www.pcworld.com/article/241048/how_to_disable_your_laptop_touchpad.html

COMPUTER TRIVIA FUN

1. It took the radio 38 years and the television only 13, but the internet reached 50 million users in only 4 years.
2. The computer mouse was invented by Doug Engelbart in 1963. It was made out of wood (weird, huh).

[\(Source SanDiegoHelp.com\)](http://www.sandiegohelp.com)

WINDOWS 7'S SLOW SUNSET CONTINUES WITH OCTOBER 31ST DEADLINE

As PC users anxiously await the release of 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 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: main-stream 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 10 to justify either of the support deadlines.

By Jacob Siegal <http://goo.gl/xdozUF> & <http://bgr.com/2014/09/24/windows-7-end-of-sales/>

OPEN HOUSES FOR COMPUTER ASSISTANCE

July 15 - (10 am —1 pm) (Wednesday)

Aug 1 - (10 am—1 pm) (Saturday)

Aug 5 - (1 pm —4 pm) (Wednesday)

DRAG AND DROP WITH A RIGHT CLICK – TONS OF OPTIONS FOR COPYING AND MOVING FILES AND MORE

Windows XP, Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8x

You probably know you can move a file by dragging and dropping it to a new location. By pressing down a key on your keyboard, you can also copy it or create a shortcut with that same drag-and-drop motion.

In Windows, dragging and dropping a file will perform the default task—usually moving. However, holding down a certain key will perform different actions:

Ctrl+Drag will copy the file

Shift+Drag will move the file (especially in situations when copy is the default—for instance when you're dragging a file between two different drives)

Alt+Drag will create a shortcut to the file in the new location

Did you know that holding down the Ctrl key while dragging will copy a file instead of moving it? If you drag a file, while holding down the Ctrl key and the right mouse button, you'll get a ton of options when you release the Ctrl key and mouse button: You can choose to copy or move the file, create a shortcut to the file in the destination folder, or even create a zip file with 7-zip if you have that installed.

These are simple tips we have long forgotten but which are very useful timesavers -- we thought you'd you like to be reminded too!

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

**Genealogy SIG on July 18th, 10 AM at
John Ruehle Center**