

# Bits and Bytes

August 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

### SPECIAL SESSION—Aug 17th

**“Installing Windows 10”**

**10 am to noon**

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

As this is my final issue of the Bella Vista Computer Club “Bits & Bytes” Newsletter, I encourage you to consider taking on this role of newsletter editor to keep this means of communication available to the membership of the club. The Officers of the Club have been saying for several months that if the members of the club want to continue receiving this monthly newsletter, it will be necessary for a club member to assume this responsibility or newsletters will no longer be available for the membership.

As I end my four + years of trying to bring you a variety of tips, suggestions, facts, and articles of information to you, it is now up to someone else to step up and help in this endeavor. The new editor can choose their own format, number of pages and type of information to contain in the monthly newsletter. I will volunteer to help the new editor get started if desired. Please help keep this newsletter going!  
*Don Hood, Newsletter Editor*

### CLASS SCHEDULE

#### PC Maintenance —Part 1—“Cleaning”

August 11, Session 1 of 1, 1 pm to 4 pm

#### Windows Live Mail—“Windows 7, 8.1, & 10”

August 18, Session 1 of 2, 10 am to noon

August 20, Session 2 of 2, 10 am to noon

#### Setting Up Windows 10

August 24, Session 1 of 1, 9 am to noon

#### Windows 10 Mail and People Applications

September 3, Session 1 of 1, 10 am to noon

#### Internet (Microsoft Edge)

September 7, Session 1 of 2, 10 am to noon

September 9, Session 2 of 2, 10 am to noon

#### Setting Up Windows 10

September 7, Session 1 of 1, 1 pm to 4 pm

#### Windows Live Mail—“Windows 7, 8.1, & 10”

September 8, Session 1 of 2, 10 am to noon

September 10, Session 2 of 2, 10 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**

## MICROSOFT RELEASES TOOL TO HIDE OR BLOCK UNWANTED WINDOWS 10 UPDATES

Windows 10 testers who've complained about mandatory updates in Microsoft's new operating system might have a solution at hand. The tool, available as an optional download, lets you hide or block any update for Windows or a hardware driver.

One of the most controversial decisions Microsoft made in its design of Windows 10 is a fundamental change to the way Windows Update works.

Windows 10 Home offers no way to block security updates and new features. And even the Pro edition has only limited control over updates.

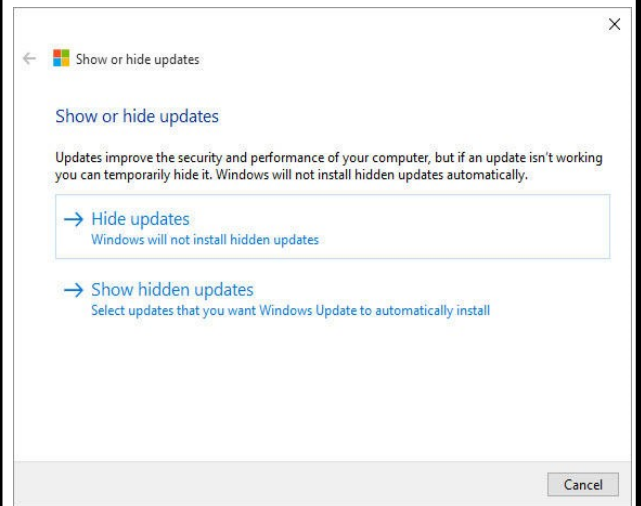
That's sparked an outcry from Windows 10 testers (including my ZDNet colleague Adrian Kingsley-Hughes) accustomed to years of being able to pick and choose from a menu of updates each month.

I've heard isolated (but legitimate) complaints this week from Windows 10 testers complaining that an updated Nvidia driver was causing havoc with their systems. One such tweet, from a longtime Windows tester, even managed to catch Gabe Aul's attention.

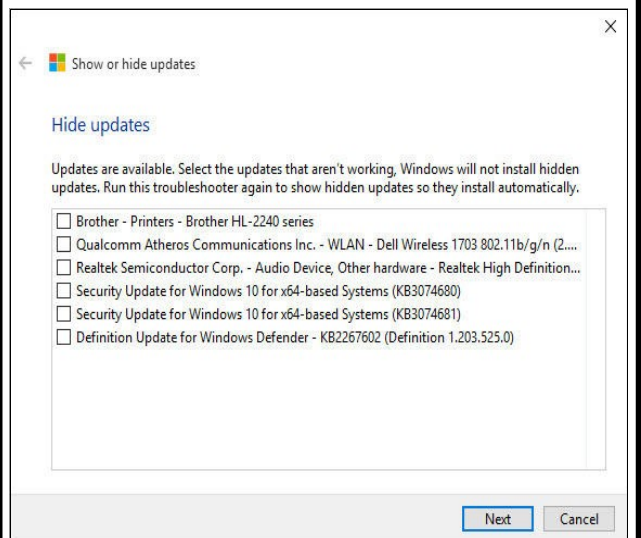
When Windows 10 arrives this week, Windows Update won't include that option, but Microsoft does have a well-hidden troubleshooter package, [KB3073930](#), which allows you to hide or block Windows Updates and, crucially, driver updates.

The package was digitally signed on June 15, and the accompanying Knowledge Base article is dated July 7, just a few weeks ago. The package is labeled for use with the Windows 10 Insider Preview, but based on its performance on the final (10240) preview build, it looks like it should work with the final release beginning July 29. *(continue next column)*

Here's what the troubleshooter looks like when you download and run it:



And here's the interface for hiding specific updates. If you've already determined that a Windows update or a driver delivered as part of a Windows Update package is causing problems, you need to uninstall the defective update or remove the problem driver. Then select its entry from this list.



Clearly, one of Microsoft's goals in changing the behavior of Windows Update in Windows 10 was to drag customers, kicking and screaming if necessary, into the always-up-to-date world, in the process removing many of the most common vectors for malware, unpatched systems. I would imagine most people who are concerned about the possibility of a defective update will still grumble over this solution, which requires more intervention than current *(continue on pg. 3)*

Windows Update options, which allow you to delay, block, and hide updates at will.

But it's definitely a solution.

By the way, if you find this utility intriguing I recommend one additional Windows 10 tweak. By default, System Restore is turned off. If you re-enable this feature, Windows resumes the practice of automatically creating a restore point before installing each new batch of patches from Windows Update, making it easier to roll back an entire batch of updates while you investigate which one is troublesome.

By [Ed Bott](#) for [The Ed Bott Report](#) | July 27, 2015 - 05:42 GMT (22:42 PDT) | Topic: [Windows 10](#)  
[http://www.zdnet.com/article/microsoft-releases-tool-to-hide-or-block-unwanted-windows-10-updates/?tag=nl.e539&s\\_cid=e539&ttag=e539&ftag=TRE17c](http://www.zdnet.com/article/microsoft-releases-tool-to-hide-or-block-unwanted-windows-10-updates/?tag=nl.e539&s_cid=e539&ttag=e539&ftag=TRE17c)

### **30-DAY TEST DRIVE: DON'T LIKE WINDOWS 10? TAKE IT BACK!**

Microsoft has kept this fact fairly quiet, however it's something any of you who are considering on upgrading to Windows 10. You can try it, and if you don't like it you can revert your system back to the Windows version you were using before you upgrade – and it only takes about 10 minutes.

But before we go on, this applies only to the free upgrade. You can't go out and buy Windows 10 and then get your money back if you don't like it. This "downgrade" offer applies only you install Windows 10 as an upgrade on a PC running Windows 7 SP1 or Windows 8.1.

When you upgrade, Windows keeps a copy of your old version of Windows in a folder called "Windows. Old". As long as you don't delete that folder you can restore your previous version of Windows directly from within Windows 10. But remember you can only do it if you do it within 30 days of the day you upgraded to Windows 10.

*(continue on next column)*

How do you do it?

Click the Start button, find Settings, choose "Update and Security", then "Recovery". You'll see the option to "Go back to Windows 8.1" or the option to "Go back to Windows 7." depending upon the version from which you upgraded.

Now a couple of things before you get things going: This process has been tested but even if it works for 99 of a 100 people, you could be the one. So makes sure you backup your personal files on USB flash drive or external hard drive before you begin. If you're using a laptop, you can't do this on batteries – the laptop must be plugged in to a power source.

Once you've selected the correct option for, click "Get started" to start the downgrade process.

Once you start, Microsoft will want to know why you didn't like Windows 10. Tell them why then click "Next" to continue the downgrade. Microsoft will give you plenty of chances to change you mind while the downgrade is in progress. To continue with the downgrade keep clicking "Next". The process should take less than 20 minutes.

So if you're on the fence about upgrading and you don't trust all the glowing reviews, you can install the upgrade and take it for a test drive. If you don't like it take it back! *Copy-right 2008 by Cloudeight Internet, <http://thundercloud.net/infoave/index.html>*

### **HOW TO CLEAR YOUR ADOBE FLASH PLAYER CACHE AND HISTORY**

It's really easy to clear your Flash Player cache and history. Here's how you do it:

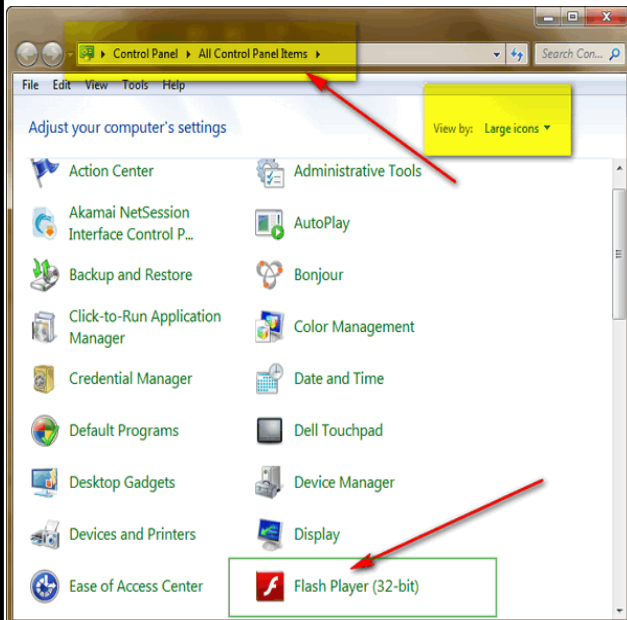
Open Control Panel – if you're in category view switch to large or small icon view.

Click on Flash Player (32 bit)

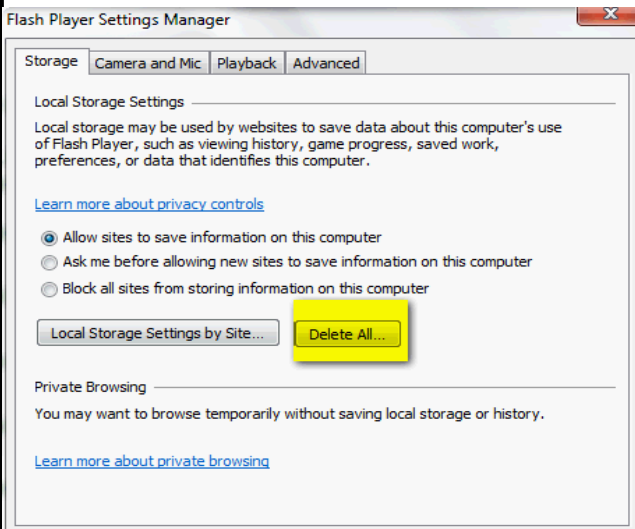
*(continue on pg. 4)*

*It doesn't really matter if you have 64 bit or 32 bit Windows, it will say 32 bit in Control Panel*

Here are some pictures to help you:



Above Control Panel Large icon view (Windows 7). Other versions of Windows are similar. Once you've clicked on Flash Player (32-bit) you'll see the dialog below:



With the Storage Tab selected at the top, click "Delete All". That's it. That's all there is to it.

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## **IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO UPGRADE TO WINDOWS 10 YOU MIGHT WANT TO UNINSTALL 3RD-PARTY START MENUS**

If you are one of the millions of Windows 8.1 users who opted to install Classic Shell (or another start menu) for Windows 8.1, after you upgrade to Windows 10, you may want to uninstall any 3rd-party start menus as Windows 10 has a full-featured start menu of its own, arguably better than any Windows version before it. Uninstalling Classic Shell (or other 3d-part start menu) will then activate the Windows 10 start menu. You may need to reboot first after uninstalling some of the 3rd-party start menus that were available for Windows 8x.

To remove Classic Shell, you can just use Control Panel/Programs. If you have one of the others you may want to use [Revo Uninstaller](#) (free) or [Geek Uninstaller](#) (free version) – be careful when you download from either one of those sites. Make sure you have the free versions.

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## **OPEN HOUSES FOR COMPUTER ASSISTANCE**

**August 19 - (10 am —1 pm) (Wednesday)**

**Sept 2 - (1 pm —4 pm) (Wednesday)**

**Sept 5 - (10 am—1 pm) (Saturday)**

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

John Coats

Paul White

Tom Buchanan

Luap McKeever

Conny Redway

Jim Redway

Phillip Dossey

## **GENEALOGY SIG**

**August 15 - 10 AM - John Ruehle Center**

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