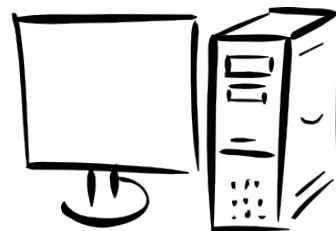


Bits & Bytes



Arkansas' Premier Computer Club

November 2016

Bella Vista Computer Club - John Ruehle Center

Highlands Crossing Center 1801 Forest Hills Blvd Suite 208 (lower level) Bella Vista, AR 72715

Website: www.bvCompClub.org

Email: jrc@bvcc.arcoxml.com

Meetings

November 14

BVCC Board Meeting

5:30 pm

Computer Club Meeting

Community Room at

Highlands Crossing 7 pm

HELP CLINICS

Wednesday, Nov. 2 1 pm-4-pm

Saturday, Nov. 5 9 am-12n

Wednesday, Nov. 16 9 am-12n

Bring your tower, laptop, tablet or smartphone for problem solving.

PROGRAM

Current trends and threats in cyber security and best technology practices we can use will be the presentation topic at the 7 pm meeting of the Bella Vista Computer Club on Monday, November 14, 2016. Jason from the IT department of **NWACC** will present the program.

This public meeting is in the Community Room of Highlands Crossing Center (lower level), 1801 Forest Hills Blvd, Bella Vista.

Welcome New Members

Robert Rein

Vione Rein

Terry Odom-Moralez

Jesse Moralez

Walter Hingos

New officers have been elected but we still need a volunteer for **Secretary**. It is not hard, I did it for two years and enjoyed working with the Board.

Julie Storm

Ryan Smith



Our club web designer and webmaster for many years, passed away Sunday, November 13th at Circle of Life in Bentonville. Service information will be printed when received.

Ryan was a dedicated Club member and he will be greatly missed.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Genealogy SIG 10 AM John Ruehle Center

3rd Saturday 10-12 am

Will Your Photos Last a Thousand Years?

Would you be surprised to learn that standard CD and DVD discs have an expected life span of just 3 to 5 years? If your precious memories are backed up on optical discs, you might want to go looking for a medium that will protect your documents and photos a bit longer. How about a solution that promises 1000 years? Read on...

Long-Term File Storage

Do you have photos, videos or other important files that you'd like to preserve for 50 years, 100 years, or longer? Yesterday I was looking at a photo of my great-great-grandparents, which was taken in about 1870. I scanned it and saved a digital copy on my computer's hard drive, then copied it and some other family photos to a CD-ROM disc. But neither of those digital copies is likely to survive as long as that 150-year-old original photo has.

Wouldn't it be nice to have some kind of computer-readable storage medium that would last for generations? Milleniata, developer of the M-DISC storage technology, LLC, sure thinks so. On a website featuring the sad stories of people who lost precious photos, [the virtues of M-DISC optical discs](#) are extolled from every angle. Here is how M-DISC works:

Standard CD/DVD technology uses a laser beam to heat a layer of organic dye that is sandwiched between polycarbonate sheets. The heated point, which can be very tiny, first swells like a bubble and finally collapses into a pit in the dye layer. A pattern of pit/no-pit areas on the disc's surface constitute binary code that can be read by the same laser that wrote it. That is, the pattern can be read as long as the laser-burnt pits last.

It takes 3-5 years for the organic dye to degrade naturally; that is the maximum life expectancy of CD, DVD, or Blu-Ray discs that use dye technology. Milleniata claims to vastly exceed this life expectancy by replacing degradable organic dye with an immutable mineral compound that is melted by the writing laser beam.

For \$8 a month, M-DISC will pull content you've stored in a Google Photos account, and send you an archive disc that should last for hundreds of years. You can also burn your own M-DISCs at home, with a compatible DVD or Blu-ray drive.

All DVD drives are capable of reading the M-Disc DVD, but it takes more power to melt "stone" than it does to boil dye. Not every optical drive contains a laser powerful enough to write M-DISC discs. LG Electronics, Samsung, Hitachi, and Pioneer offer optical drives touted as M-ready. And they don't seem to be any more expensive than regular drives. The [LG Electronics Ultra Slim DVD Writer](#) is an internal drive that sells for \$32 on Amazon. The external [LG Electronics Blu-ray DVD Writer](#) goes for \$149. You can find [dozens of other M-DISC-compatible drives here](#).

Minerals, Vitamins, and Baked Lasagna

The mineral compound makes M-DISC discs longer-lived, but it does not make them indestructible as the many preposterous demonstrations conducted by Millienata suggest. I don't care if an [M-DISC baked in lasagna](#) remains readable. How does it do after I drop it face down on a sidewalk and step on it?

M-DISC's added value lies in its stability under archival conditions: a safe deposit box, or perhaps an attic or basement. Attics may get hot enough to degrade organic dye prematurely while minerals remain intact. But a disc made with either is still vulnerable to physical destruction if it's carried from place to place routinely.

Still, for important personal or commercial digital artifacts such as family photos, tax returns, unpublished novels, etc., at least one M-DISC may be worth having. The largest Blu-ray M-DISC capacity is about 100 GB, so more than a handful shouldn't be necessary for most consumers, unless you have extensive collections of photos, music or videos that you want to preserve for 1000 years. Businesses and other institutional users may need more M-DISCs.

A 5-pack of 50GB M-DISCs costs \$47 at the [M-Disc Store](#). You can also purchase M-DISC compatible drives and discs in other quantities or capacities there.

M-DISCs are pricey compared to regular DVD or Blu-ray discs, but if you're looking for a backup solution that avoids the problem of the relatively short lifespan of consumer-grade hard drives and CD/DVD discs, as well as the privacy concerns of cloud storage, a couple of M-DISCs and a fireproof safe bolted to a concrete floor might be the best you can do right now.

Do You Need Silverlight?

You've probably seen the message: "An application you want to download may require Silverlight." May? If that's marketing, I'm not convinced that I need the product. So what exactly is Silverlight?

Fundamentally, Silverlight is Microsoft's competitive answer to Adobe's Flash, the long-standing dominant standard for multimedia Web applications. Silverlight integrates animations, video, and interactivity (the ability to click on an animated item and trigger a response). Web site developers can do things that would be difficult or impossible without Silverlight. But does that mean they should?

Silverlight requires Microsoft's .NET Framework, another optional Windows component. .NET is probably going to become the prevailing standard under which new Windows applications are developed, so eventually you will need to install it. But is Silverlight going to become a multimedia standard so widely used by Web sites that you absolutely positively must have it in order to enjoy Web surfing adequately?

Probably not, because Silverlight is not compatible with Linux. And most Web servers are running some flavor of Linux. Novell has released Moonlight, a Linux-based free software implementation of Silverlight's framework, in conjunction with Microsoft. But it does not have the full functionality of Silverlight and will probably lag behind for years to come.

Is Silverlight Compatible With My System?

Compatibility with Web browsers is also important for any Web server's software framework.

Silverlight is compatible with Firefox, SeaMonkey, Safari, Opera, and Google Chrome - but not under all operating systems. Of course, Silverlight is compatible with Microsoft's own Internet Explorer v6 and later. To see which operating systems support Silverlight under which browsers, see this [Wikipedia table](#).

Adobe Air and Flash are other reasons Silverlight probably won't dominate the Web. Adobe Air is analogous to Microsoft .NET Framework; both provide vast libraries of functions that save programmers lots of time and support standardized ways of doing things in applications. Flash/Air competes directly with Silverlight/.NET. Adobe Flash is already the standard multimedia platform on the Web, so the Adobe platform has quite an edge in competition. To learn more about programming Silverlight applications, visit the official [Silverlight site](#).

Who is using Silverlight? eBay, for one. "When you really need to know if you won that eBay item," says Microsoft developer and Silverlight community leader, "use the new auction item tracker tool created by eBay using Silverlight and Internet Explorer 8 (IE 8). This tool allows you to easily track all the items you are interested in as well as see which auctions you've won with a drag and drop tool that runs as a side bar to eBay in IE 8."

Yes, you need IE 8 to use eBay's Silverlight tool. That's a problem with software frameworks such as Silverlight. A Web developer may not have the resources to design the same app for all operating system/browser combinations. We end up with a fragmented Web. People must switch browsers; download and install multiple platforms (.NET, Adobe Air); and add several browser plug ins that do the same thing only differently. But that's the free market for you. And we do like the free market.

Resistance May Not Be Futile

So far, I've resisted the siren call of Silverlight on my office computer, and I don't feel like I'm missing anything. Probably because right now, there really aren't many sites using Silverlight. My advice on Silverlight, as with all new software platforms, is to wait until it reaches out and pulls you in. (Remember VRML?) Don't install Silverlight just because Microsoft recommends it. Wait until some new software or ultra-cool website that requires Silverlight comes along, and you just gotta have it.

Reminders

Be sure to check the class schedules at the meeting and sign-up for the ones you are interested in. There is no charge for classes to Club members.

Check your Membership to see if it is renewal time. We value each one of you!

The **Bits & Bytes** will be updated as new information comes.

Please check often!

Club Officers:

Sylvia Hill- President

Bob Shewmake Vice-President:

Secretary:

Treasurer: Joel Ewing

Board Members:

Marie Herr, Ken Nelson, Marilyn Russell

Committee Chairs:

Jim Prince, Membership

Julie Storm, Newsletter Editor

John Reese, Programs

Earl Cummings, Librarian

Nancy Jones, Public Relations

Joel Ewing Webmaster

Marie Herr, Education

Bob Shewmake, Genealogy Liaison



Classes and open house clinics are free to Computer Club members. Club membership fee- \$20; ½ price additional family member. Classes and help clinics are held at the John Ruehle Center located in the Highlands Crossings Center, 1801 Forest Hills Blvd., Suite 208, Bella Vista. Class descriptions at bvcompclub.org