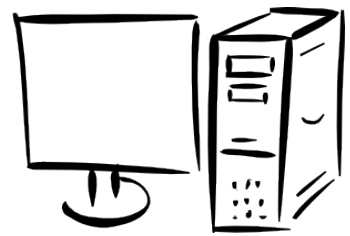


Bits & Bytes



Arkansas' Premier Computer Club

March '17

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.arcoxmail.com

Meetings

March 14

BVCC Board Meeting
5:30 pm
Computer Club Meeting
Highlands Crossing 7 pm

HELP CLINICS

Wednesday, Mar 1, 1pm - 4pm

Saturday, Mar 4, 9am - noon

Wednesday March 22 9 am to noon

Help clinics are a free service for computer club members.

PROGRAM

The Bella Vista Computer Club will meet at 7 pm on Monday, March 13. Ryan Holland from Office Depot will present the program on best technology practices.

This public meeting is in Room A at Highlands Crossing Center, 1801 Forest Hills Blvd., Bella Vista.

The Club's website has detailed directions to our new meeting room.

Website: www.bvCompClub.org

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

WANTED

The BVCC needs your help. If you have an hour or more you can give to the Recycling Center they need greeters to assist people dropping off their recyclables. Our income is derived from dues and compensation for hours donated to the Recycling Center.

If your interests and talent fit with our BVCC Board and Chairmen positions, the following are descriptions of their duties. Board Members are the only members who can vote.

See page 2. For Board Positions

Welcome New Members

Wayne Koepf

Kathy Fournier

BOARD MEMBERS

President

Presides over all monthly meetings of the Board and General Meetings. Provides leadership to the BVCC and maintains relationship with Highlands Crossings management. Oversees the management of the Computer Lab.

Vice-President

Presides over all monthly meetings of the Board and General Meetings in the absence of the president. Assists President with whatever needs attention.

Secretary

Takes minutes of all monthly Board Meetings and correspondence as needed.

Treasurer

Presents a Monthly Financial Report to the Board and General Membership, issues checks, keeps track of all accounts, and conducts all financial matters in a businesslike manner.

Board Members At Large

Serve in rotating terms so not all members are new at once. Votes on all matters pertaining to the club. Some research required occasionally. Perform whatever tasks the President wants done.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership

Presents a Monthly Report to the Board on the status of membership and the dues collected. Sits at the door at meetings to greet and enroll members, and collect their dues. Sends out notices of our meetings.

Newsletter Editor

Publishes "Bits & Bytes" monthly.

Programs

Invites Guest Speakers and plans programs of interest to the members and guests.

Public Relations

Sends out notices of our meetings and guest speakers to media.

Webmaster

Maintains our web site.

Education

Plans classes, writes lesson plans, helps with maintenance of the computers in the lab, and enrolls students in classes.

Training Center Administrator

Maintains all the equipment in the Computer Lab.

Genealogy Liaison

Works with community members interested in Genealogy research.

If you would like to participate, please contact President Sylvia Hill at her e-mail address:

s.hill2@cox.net

Windows 7: Unsafe at Any Speed?

Three years remain until the end of Windows 7's life cycle. Starting in January 2020, even security patches will no longer be released; Windows 7 will steadily become more vulnerable to hackers and malware. But until then, those who choose to stick with the aging operating system are good, right? Read on for the scoop...

Is Windows 7 Secure?

Not according to Markus Nitschke, head of Windows at Microsoft Germany. Even today, he says, Windows 7 "does not meet the requirements of modern technology, nor the high security requirements of IT departments." He cites two recent zero-day exploits that Windows 10 was able to neutralize with its new, improved security features. Windows 7 remained wide open to the exploits until patches were released.

The cost of sticking with Windows 7 (first released in 2009) must include the cost of remediating security breaches that would not occur under Windows 10. That's a fine cost/benefit analysis for enterprises, but does it really apply to home users?

Yes, but to a different degree. Your home network may not be the conscious target of a sophisticated hacking team, like the servers of a large bank, but random malware buzzes around the Net like gnats over a pond. Your network experiences dozens of attacks every day. A successful malware or ransomware attack can take your household offline for days, and destroy the majority of your personal data.

But why can't Microsoft make Windows 7 just as secure as Windows 10, or close to it? The security features that blocked zero-day exploits were added with Windows 10 Anniversary Update. Should the same features be added to older versions of Windows as long as they are still in extended support? Or is it unreasonable to expect Microsoft to expend resources on new features for nearly obsolete operating systems?

Greg Iddon, security specialist at Sophos, believes it's impractical to harden Windows 7 to the same degree as Windows 10. The older operating system carries a lot of baggage, he says.

Leaving Well-Enough Alone?

A big piece of the security puzzle is eternal vigilance on the part of the user. It remains important to think twice (or three times) before clicking or downloading, especially with links that arrive in your email. Use one of my recommended [free antivirus tools](#), be aware of [phishing attempts](#), and know how to [defend against ransomware](#).

"While it is almost certainly possible to port these security improvements over" to Windows 7, Iddon says, "the changes would likely risk breaking a number of legacy applications, and require a large amount of effort to port and maintain."

Some of Windows 10's new security features, like Credential Guard and Device Guard, are so deeply intertwined with the kernel of the operating system that they cannot be ported to Windows 7's quite different kernel without major revisions. That kind of programming effort is better spent on the operating system of the future, rather than spread thinly over several versions. And of course Microsoft has little reason to provide any incentive for users to stick with older operating systems.

If Microsoft can promptly issue patches for security and reliability bugs, the company will meet its obligations to provide extended support through the early part of 2020. After that, diehard clingers will run a bigger risk every day, as the security gap between Windows 10 and 7 widens.

How long do you plan to cling to Windows 7? Are you taking any steps to get familiar with Windows 10 to prepare for the inevitable?

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



St. Patrick's Day

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