



# Mountain Bits & Bytes

The Award Winning Monthly Publication of the Mountain Computer User Group

Vol. 10 Issue #2  
February 2010

## SWAP SHOP

(Bits and PCs)

In this issue you will see an almost brand new column in your newsletter - Bits and PCs (See page 4). You will be able to buy, sell, swap, or give away computer related items that you list here. Forms will be available at our February meeting as well as all regularly scheduled meetings. Forms can be turned in to Tom Allen or emailed to [bunkerhilltom@yahoo.com](mailto:bunkerhilltom@yahoo.com). Information will be limited to 15 words plus your name and contact information. Forms received by the fifteenth of the month will be published in the following month's newsletter. Happy Shopping!

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## KINDLE 2 for February Program

Well, The January meeting certainly was a "bust", thanks to Mother Nature's "Southern Blizzard".



We shall try again on February 8th, aforesaid Mother Nature cooperating, having our postponed demonstration of

Amazon's Kindle 2 by MCUG member Karen Seagert.



We have a great raffle prize, lots of door prizes, and lots of good computer information.

Come on out, bring your technical questions, and help get a belated start to the New Year!



Rea Williams, President

Mountain Computer User Group  
P.O. Box 474  
Young Harris, GA. 30582

#### Officers for 2010

##### President

Rea Williams reaw@brmemc.net

##### Vice President

John Yandell jyandell@brmemc.net

##### Past President

Jim Bell jbell1011@verizon.net

##### Secretary/Treasurer

George Donegan  
gd0negan29@windstream.net

##### Publisher/Editor

Tom Allen bunkerhilltom@yahoo.com



#### Board of Directors for 2010

Bob Greenhaw bbgreenhaw@brmemc.net

Art Frenz art.diane@gmail.com

Randy Gehring rgehring@vivi.com

Paul Filer pinkfish@windstream.net

#### MCUG Monthly Meeting Schedule

The regular monthly meeting of the Mountain Computer User Group (MCUG) is held on the second Monday of every month, at 7 p.m., in the Wilson Lecture Hall (Room 201) of the Goolsby Building on the campus of Young Harris College in Young Harris, GA.

All regular monthly meetings and SIGs are open to everyone regardless of membership status.

#### MCUG Membership

Annual dues are \$20 and extend membership privileges to two (2) members of a household. Membership privileges include: special discounts on vendor products, access to products for evaluation and review, and association with a great bunch of people.

#### Affiliation

The Mountain Computer User Group is a member of APCUG, a nonprofit international organization dedicated to promoting communications between PC user groups and the computer industry.

#### Group Purpose

The Mountain Computer User Group is a nonprofit, tax-exempt educational organization without corporate or vendor affiliation. Its purpose is the encouragement and advancement of computer information and knowledge through "users helping users".

## Microsoft Scanner & Camera Wizard

By Bob Elgines, CRCC Editor, Colorado River Computer Club, Arizona

[www.crcclaz.org](http://www.crcclaz.org)

[elginesz@rraz.net](mailto:elginesz@rraz.net)

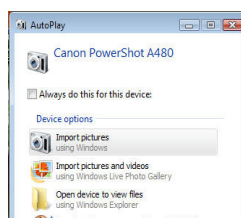
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Most of us have multiple digital cameras

nowadays, and really don't need to install all of their programs anymore since Windows XP. You can use the "Scanner & Camera Wizard". It is located under "Programs/Accessories" and if the computer does not have any third party camera programs installed, it will come up automatically after you plug your camera in to a USB port. It will list your camera, then guide to through a procedure to download your pictures or videos to your selected folder and if you wish to delete them from your camera or not.

In Windows Vista, it is not under the "Accessories" folder, but under "Programs" labeled "Windows Photo Gallery". Run this program, then go to "File" choose "Import from Scanner or Camera".



If the computer does not have any third party camera programs installed, a selection "Import pictures; Using Windows" will come up automatically after you plug your camera in to a USB port (see picture on the left).

Now you can download your pictures on any computer using the built-in software.

## WHERE DID THE MONEY GO?

by: George Donegan, MCUG Member

The highlight of the year for most of us as members of the Mountain Computer User Group is the Annual Christmas Charity/Auction. Not only is this event full of fun and fellowship it is one time we all can gather and not worry about how many giga bytes this has or has your thing-ama-doodle got enough ram. This event is held at a time of year that is busting out all over with the spirit of Christmas and giving. This is a time we can all be together and enjoy a great meal plus have the opportunity to bid (purchase) computer software, great restaurant meals and even a one night stay at a fabulous lodge. All this for unheard of prices. In all of this you should be proud that you helped raise \$1049.00 for charity. Your board of directors voted to make it an even \$1100.00 and this is where it went. The S.A.F.E. House for battered women and children, we gave \$400. The Wilderness Scouts of America (Blairsville) who work with underprivileged boys and girls \$300. To the Food Pantry's in Clay County, NC \$100, The Food Pantry in Cherokee County, NC \$100. The Food Pantry in Union County, GA \$100 and the Food Pantry in Towns County, GA \$100. This is where your money went.

**See Page 7 for a list of individuals and businesses who made donations for our auction.**



Left to right Rea Williams, MCUG President, Bill Frala, Deputy Director of the Union County Food Pantry and George Donegan, MCUG Sec/Treasurer.



Pictured left to right are MCUG President Rea Williams, S.A.F.E. House's Marje Porter and MCUG's Sec/Treasurer George Donegan..

## Tom's Tip of the Month

Grid computing (or the use of a *computational grid*) is applying the resources of many computers in a network to a single problem at the same time - usually to a scientific or technical problem that requires a great number of computer processing cycles or access to large amounts of data. A well-known example of grid computing in the public domain is the ongoing SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) @Home project in which thousands of people are sharing the unused processor cycles of their PCs in the vast search for signs of "rational" signals from outer space. According to John Patrick, IBM's vice-president for Internet strategies, "the next big thing will be grid computing."

Grid computing requires the use of software that can divide and farm out pieces of a program to as many as several thousand computers. Grid computing can be thought of as distributed and large-scale cluster computing and as a form of network-distributed parallel processing. It can be confined to the network of computer workstations within a corporation or it can be a public collaboration (in which case it is also sometimes known as a form of peer-to-peer computing).

## **BITS & PCs**

**For Sale or Trade  
Used Dell keyboard with  
USB-2 connections  
Works well  
bunkerhilltom@yahoo.com  
or (706-400-9124)**

## **Windows 7 Is Here**

**and it is good and here's how to get there**

By Charles W. Evans, PC Member and the Magazine's Reviews Editor, HAL-PC, Texas

HAL PC News Magazine, Fall 2009

www.hal-pc.org      reviews (at) hal-pc.org

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**There is no substitute for prior planning.**

There is no substitute for prior planning. (Oh! Did I say that twice? Hummm.) Before beginning installing Windows 7, create a plan that details what's on your original system, where it is going to wind up on the new system, configurations, and how you are going to get from one to the other. And yes, it is OK to employ your original word processor to do this and it migrates easily to Windows 7... technically it's called a pencil and paper. ;-)



Determine which edition of Windows 7 you need.

1. Is your hardware up to snuff?
2. Back up your data before you start the upgrade. Acronis TrueImage, Casper and Ghost are good back up programs and have been reviewed by the Magazine.
3. Update Windows XP or Vista data before you begin installing Windows 7.
4. As a rule of thumb, if it works under Vista it should work under Windows 7.

5. Before installing Windows 7, download the current Windows 7 drivers onto a flash drive or burn to a CD. This part of being prepared.

6. If you are using Windows 7 RC1, no upgrade is possible and you have until June 2010, when it dies. If it is on the hard drive you intend to use for Windows 7, format the hard drive. You will no longer have use of RC1.

Four important notes:

1. Clean up your existing computer – really! Get rid of old programs and files and defragment your hard drive.

2. Your best option is NOT to upgrade – start with a clean hard drive.

3. You will be told that you CANNOT upgrade from Win XP to Win 7. Not so, but it is a convoluted process. I do not recommend this, period. But all is not lost. There are two ways to “salvage” your XP programs. One is to get a new computer with “V” certification; i.e., virtualization gives you capability to run your XP programs on a virtual hard drive under Win 7! There is a different route and that is to “migrate” your XP files to Win 7. I’ve listed a web site that will help you do this. There are some programs that will not successfully migrate. I’ll explain later.

4. If you upgrade from Windows Vista, you must upgrade to a like edition. For example, Vista Home to Win7 Home or Ultimate to Ultimate.

Upgrading from one operating system to another is no longer as simple as inserting a diskette and pressing the Enter key. Questions arise about the right hardware, about

compatibility of existing applications and data files with the new operating system. This article helps you think through the process of upgrading to Win7.

Windows Easy Transfer migrates your application settings and data, other options allow complete migration of both applications and data as a single operation. Windows Easy Transfer, which is available for free from Microsoft’s website, allows

you to migrate both application settings and data from your XP system to a Windows 7 system. It even allows you to create a disk repository with this information. This is an acceptable method, but by no means foolproof.

Windows Easy Transfer lets you identify the programs and related data that you want to transfer and accomplish most of this migration work in one set of actions. The easiest workaround in transferring application data from Windows XP to a Win7 environment is to use Windows Easy Transfer on the Windows 7 DVD to transfer XP documents and settings to a backup location; e.g., flash drive or another hard disk, and then restore from this backup.

This would be a very good time to re-think your data storage location(s). Generally, Word will store your DOC files and other data created by Office under the Documents and Settings folders. Other programs will have a default location for the data you create. You might think about creating a partition just for the files that you generate. If it would be helpful, subdivide the partition by using folders for each type of file. In this method, you simply backup the entire partition and you have your backup accomplished.

Following are some points you should keep in mind:

1. You can use Windows Easy Transfer to move both programs and all their associated data as a package, but before you get to that stage, make sure that the move will transfer everything you want moved.

2. If you’re using the move as an opportunity to upgrade from one version of an application to another (for example, moving from one version of Microsoft Office to another version), you should do two things:

a. Verify that the new application is compatible with the new operating system (some

applications that worked with Windows XP or Windows Vista may not work under Win7).

(Continued from page 5)

b. Verify that the new version of the application will be able to use the data files from the older version. A good way to prevent problems like this is to use the same shared folders to store data on the old system and the new system.

### Migration versus Reinstallation

I recommend that you migrate a software package intact. At times that may not be an option since some software packages register a unique ID based on both the license key and the CPU. If you migrate from one physical system to another, or significantly change the hardware configuration, the ID may change, as will the unique ID used by that software package. In this instance, you are forced to reinstall the software. This is one reason you cannot simply move your existing hard drive from one system to another.

In a new system with a different motherboard, you would need to reinstall programs.



There is no substitute for prior planning. There is no substitute for

prior planning.

(Oh! Did I say that before? Hummm.) I've listed four sources of information that I'd strongly recommend you download, print, read and make a few notes. I know, I know,

we all thought we were through with homework in the 12th grade. Turns out life is just one big homework assignment!

Microsoft Win7 Information

[http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd446674\(WS.10\).aspx](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd446674(WS.10).aspx)

Virtual PC 2007 – information about a virtual drive/PC

[www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=04D26402-3199-48A3-AFA2-](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=04D26402-3199-48A3-AFA2-)

[2DC0B40A73B6&displaylang=en](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=04D26402-3199-48A3-AFA2-2DC0B40A73B6&displaylang=en)

Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor – advice on software/hardware compatibility

[www.microsoft.com/downloads/thankyou.aspx?familyid=1b544e90-7659-4bd9-9e51-](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/thankyou.aspx?familyid=1b544e90-7659-4bd9-9e51-)

[2497c146af15&displayLang=en](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/thankyou.aspx?familyid=1b544e90-7659-4bd9-9e51-2497c146af15&displayLang=en)

Migrate to Windows 7 – Softpedia Information

[http://news.softpedia.com/news/XP-to-Windows-7-Upgrade-Scenario-Hardlink-](http://news.softpedia.com/news/XP-to-Windows-7-Upgrade-Scenario-Hardlink-Migration-109722.shtml)

[Migration-109722.shtml](http://news.softpedia.com/news/XP-to-Windows-7-Upgrade-Scenario-Hardlink-Migration-109722.shtml)

Windows 7 RC1 expires July 1, 2010 – you should have updated long before that date. Notice I said “updated” since you cannot upgrade RC1 to any Windows 7 version.

Don't rush it. You have time to do it right. And I think you will like Windows 7.

### More One Liners

I know I'm supposed to back up my files, but I still haven't found reverse on my PC.

In my next life I'm going to have more memory installed

One picture is worth 128K

Any program that runs right is obsolete.

Computers are not intelligent. They only think they are.

Computers can never replace human stupidity.

The Definition of an Upgrade: Take old bugs out, put new ones in.

A computer's attention span is as long as its power cord.

The Mountain Computer Users Group would like to express our deepest thanks to the following merchants for their contributions that made our Christmas Charity Auction a huge success!

<b>Members of the Mountain Computer Users Group</b>	
<b>Doyle's Cedar Hill Restaurant Murphy, NC</b>	<b>Monte Alban Mexican Restaurant Hiawassee, GA</b>
<b>Discount Office Supply Haysville, NC</b>	<b>Computer Connection Haysville, NC</b>
<b>Always Christmas! Hiawassee, GA</b>	<b>Enrico's Italian Restaurant! Young Harris, GA</b>
<b>Daniel's Restaurant and Steakhouse Hiawassee, GA</b>	<b>Brothers at Willow Branch Restaurant Young Harris, GA</b>
<b>Crossroads Restaurant Hiawassee, GA</b>	<b>Hole In The Wall Blairsville</b>
<b>Mamasu's Brick Oven Pizza Hiawassee, GA</b>	<b>The Ridge's Lodge Hiawassee, GA</b>
<b>Grinds and Glazes Blairsville, GA</b>	<b>Country Cottage Deli Haysville, NC</b>

# Mountain Computer User Group February 2010 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Sally Miller	2	3 February Board Mtg  YH Lib 10:00	4	5	6
7 Paul Filer	8 FebruaryMtg Q&A 6:00 Kindle2 7:00	9 Bill Heath	10	11	12	13
14 HAPPY Valentines Day!	15 	16	17 Dwayne Olson	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



Ed and Sally Dannemann 2/07/1948 62 yrs  
 Donna and Dick Generas 2/07/1955 55 yrs  
 Larry and Gerda Jones 2/18/1972 38 yrs