



The Award Winning Monthly Publication of the Mountain Computer User Group

Vol. 9, Issue #11
November 2009

SWAP SHOP

(Bits and PCs)

In January 2010 you will see a brand new column in your newsletter - Bits and PCs. You will be able to buy, sell, swap, or give away computer related items that you list here. Forms will be available at our November meeting and our Christmas party as well as all regularly scheduled meetings. Forms can be turned in to Tom Allen or emailed to 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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Electronics for Christmas

Our November meeting (Tuesday, Nov. 10th) will feature an overview of some of the new (or older) electronics devices that you might give or receive this coming Christmas.

Although we focus on computers at our club we thought looking a little outside the computer realm might be interesting. I hope all of you will bring information about products you have purchased or are considering purchasing so can learn more about them together.

Meeting on a Tuesday night will be a little different but we will use our usual format of a 6PM Q&A session followed by a 7 PM program. This should be a fun and interesting topic and I hope I learn as much from this as I did with the social networking program.

See you there.

Jim

NOTICE!!

For **ONLY** the month of November, our monthly meeting will be the second Tuesday of the month, Nov. 10th. We will resume meeting the second Monday of each month in January. Our Christmas party will be held on December 7th at the All Saints Lutheran Church, 2050 E.Shelton Rd., Blairsville, GA.at 6:00 P.M.

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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".

Reinstalling Windows

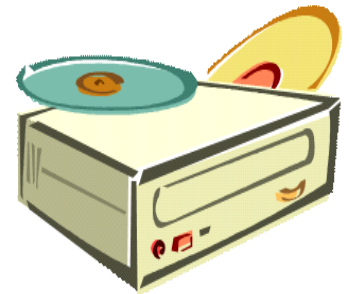
Written by Vinny La Bash, a member of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc., FL

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No matter how diligent you are at computer housecleaning and tuning your system, at some point you will need to reinstall Windows. One of the most infuriating things about the process occurs after the installation when you realize you have forgotten something important like exporting your Favorites folder. Several weeks ago I reinstalled Vista on my laptop and almost forgot to do something elementary. So perhaps it's time to review the basics.



There are many reasons to reinstall windows. Perhaps the registry has gotten corrupted or it could be an accumulation of little things that are driving you nuts. Whatever is annoying you, a clean install is always the best option. Before doing anything, careful planning will keep you out of trouble.

The detailed procedures outlined here apply specifically to Vista, but the general concepts apply to any version of Windows and even other operating systems. There are three main areas to a reinstall. You need proper preparation, the install itself, and the aftermath to clean up any mess you may have inadvertently created. That means you don't schedule a reinstall the night before any deadlines.

Start by documenting any critical login identifications and passwords. If you pay bills online, access financial information, eBay, PayPal or anything else important to you., now is the time to write it all down. Some folks use a password protected spreadsheet file. Others use some kind of encrypted application to store the data. I prefer good old

reliable pen and paper stored in a safe place, not taped to my monitor.

Do you have your Windows product key available? You need it to reinstall Vista. Are there any other applications you will reinstall that require product keys, like Microsoft Office? Gather them all, including any drivers you may need to reinstall hardware, like a printer or mobile smart phone.

A clean install requires that you backup your data files. This is especially important if you're planning to reformat your hard drive. Backup email contacts, calendar entries, and anything you consider important. Don't forget anything special you may have saved on your desktop. That's an easy one to overlook.

Have you installed new hardware recently? Any new devices, except physical memory, require some kind of driver software to work properly. You can get the most up-to-date drivers by visiting the manufacturer's web site and downloading them. Go to the Device Manager for a list of installed hardware or use Belarc Advisor for a more detailed description.

Do some housecleaning. Search your drive for files that are obsolete or otherwise unnecessary. It's amazing how much digital detritus can accumulate over time. Perform a full deep virus scan so your new setup can get off to a clean start. Use Disk Cleanup if you want to reduce the number of unnecessary files on your hard disk to free up disk space and help your computer run faster. It removes temporary files, empties the Recycle Bin, and deletes a variety of system files and other items that you no longer need.

Back up the My Documents folder and any sub-folders that may exist. Backup Links if you use Internet Explorer; Bookmarks if you use Mozilla Firefox. If you're not sure you've backed up everything you need, back up the entire disk. If you've forgotten anything, your data can be recovered.



By now you should have:

Documented all logins and passwords

Backed up all important data including My Documents and any sub-folders

Have all product keys and activation codes handy

Backed up your email contact list, and calendar entries

Backed up Favorites, Links, Bookmarks, etc.

Collected Driver disks



Check everything at least twice to make sure you haven't overlooked anything essential and you're ready to go. Insert your Windows disk and reinstall the operating system.

After the process is complete, there is still work to do. Use Windows Update to retrieve and install the latest service packs, security updates, and any necessary patches. After bringing your operating system up-to-date, turn your attention to applications and device drivers.

If you reinstalled Vista from the manufacturer's installation or system restore disks, drivers for the original software and hardware that came with the system are likely to be either no longer relevant or out-of-date. You may need to visit several manufacturers' web sites to download and install the most recent drivers. This is part of proper preparation, but if you neglected this step it's not a fatal mistake.

Restore any data you backed up earlier, reconfigure network settings if applicable, and tweak the system to suit your personal preferences. Create a system restore point, and do an image backup of your entire system in case you need to reinstall again.

Don't fool yourself. Reinstalling the operating system, applications, drivers and such is never as simple or as easy as it should be. If you plan carefully however, it doesn't need to be stressful.

Ever noticed how fast Windows run?

Me neither!

Why programmers often mix up Halloween and Christmas?

Because OCT 31 = DEC 25

Tom's Tip of the Month

Some Internet Definitions

HTML (Hypertext Markup Language)

HTML stands for Hypertext Markup Language. This is the standard method of publishing web documents onto the World Wide Web (WWW). HTML consists of tags surrounded by brackets.

Post Office Protocol (POP)

A protocol that allows single users to read mail from a server.

protocol

A language spoken between computers to assist each other in sending and receiving information.

Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP)

A standard protocol used to transfer e-mail messages.

TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol)

Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol, or TCP/IP, is the basic communications protocol required for computers that use the Internet.

Universal Resource Locator (URL)

An example of a URL would be <http://www.computer.com>. A Universal Resource Locator refers to the universal address of an Internet web page. A URL consists of three things. First, it starts with letters such as http, ftp, or gopher that identify the resource type, followed by a colon and two forward slashes. Next, the computer's name is listed. And finally, the filename and directory of the remote resource is listed as well.

Foxit Reader: A Short Review

By Sharon Walbran, Editor, TCPC Digital Viking, Twin Cities PC User Group, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota

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This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

A Worthy Alternative to Adobe Reader

When one of my clients was concerned about hacker threats to Adobe Reader last winter I went in search of alternative software. I found the free version of Foxit Reader at <http://www.foxitsoftware.com/pdf/reader/>

It's well worth a look! Here are just some of the advantages:

Small Size. The file is about one-sixth the size of the latest free version of Adobe Reader and takes seconds to download and install. The small footprint is great for older computers or those short on hard drive space. There is also a U3 version for flash drives.

Speed. It starts up fast and runs fast. No delays while splash screens load. Printing is also speedy.

"No surprises." Foxit Reader will remind you of Adobe Reader—same interface, menus and toolbars so the transition is painless.

Open multiple files in tabbed format. If you like the ability to open several web pages on tabs in Mozilla Firefox you'll like the tabbed format of Foxit Reader as well. View several PDF files at a time and switch between them easily by clicking the tabs.

Mark up and leave comments on PDF documents. You can insert text boxes with comments right in line with text in the PDF document or draw arrows and graphics or highlight text. This is very helpful, especially when you are collaborating on a document with others.

Take it for a test run. You will not be disappointed

Bill Gates quits Facebook over 'too many friends'

NEW DELHI — Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates said he was forced to give up on the social networking phenomenon Facebook after too many people wanted to be his friend.

Gates, the billionaire computer geek-turned-philanthropist who was honoured Saturday by India for his charity work, told an audience in New Delhi he had tried out Facebook but ended up with "10,000 people wanting to be my friends".

Gates, who remains Microsoft chairman, said he had trouble figuring out whether he "knew this person, did I not know this person".

"It was just way too much trouble so I gave it up," Gates told the business forum.

Gates was in the Indian capital to receive the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, awarded by the government for his work for the charitable organisation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The foundation, built by his massive fortune, has committed nearly one billion dollars to health and development projects in India, targeting especially AIDS and polio.

Gates also confided to the audience that he was "not that big at text messaging" and that "I'm not a 24-hour-a-day tech person".

"I read a lot and some of that reading is not on a computer," he said.

Gates, who sought to drive a vision of a computer on every desk and in every home, said the information technology revolution had been "hugely beneficial" but added: "All these tools of tech waste our time if we're not careful."

* * * * *

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

A project manager, hardware engineer and software engineer were in a car heading down a hill when the brakes failed. The driver managed to get it stopped by using the gears and a convenient dirt track.

All three jumped out and after peering under the car the hardware engineer said, "I see what the problem is and with this handy roll of duct tape I think I can fix it good enough to get us to the next town". The project manager quickly interrupted, "No, no, no. Before we do anything we need to decide on a vision for our future, figure out a plan and assign individual deliverables". At which point the software engineer said, "You know what, I think we should push the car back up to the top of the hill and see if it happens again"

A Microsoft support man goes to a firing range. He shoots 10 bullets at the target 50m away. Then the supervisors check the target and see that there's not even a single hit, and they shout to him that he missed completely. So he tells them to recheck, and gets the same answer. Then he put his finger at the top of the gun and shoots, blasting off his finger. When he saw it he shouted back "I don't know, it's working perfectly here, the problem must YOURS..."

* * * * *

(Continued from page 7)

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Title: Partner Manager

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That's it for this month. I'll have some more new product announcements on my Web site that didn't offer discounts. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click <bobclick@bellsouth.net>. Visit my Web site at <<http://www.dealsguy.com>>.

From The DealsGuy For November 2009 by Bob (The Cheap skate) Click of Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

Most people have little interest in what you did on your vacation, but I'll give you a brief run-down on part of what my wife and I did while in Michigan in July. The timing of our family events coincided with a nationally famous event that has been celebrated in Port Huron, Michigan for many years. The Port Huron to Mackinac Island sailboat race attracts people from all over to participate and the town usually ends up with approximately 100,000 people there on the evening before the race starts. It is known as "Boat Night" and while the celebration is not as wild as it used to be, it is still a night of partying by all.

Port Huron is a medium sized city situated where Lake Huron flows into the St. Clair River. That border river (Sarnia, Ontario on one side, Port Huron, Michigan on the other) is about a half mile wide on average and has a very swift current flowing down the Great Lakes Waterway to empty into Lake St. Clair, which then empties into the Detroit River etc. Black River, a smaller stream, flows through Port Huron to empty into the St. Clair River and is the center of the celebration with many very expensive sailboats tied up during a few days prior to the race, not to mention all the large expensive pleasure boats and yachts also tied up there as part of the celebration. There are three bridges crossing major streets that can be raised to allow larger boats to move up to the various marina stalls, although in some places the smaller boats may be tied up four to a boat slip. There's easily many millions of dollars worth of sailboats, yachts and pleasure boats docked there.

Boat Night is always what attracts me, and not the start of the Port Huron to Mackinac Island sailboat race the next morning. However, if you are ever in the area during the middle of July, I heartily recommend taking it in. There are also other events that coincide with this event, such as the antique car show and cruise night. Just watching the bridges go up to allow boats to pass through is interesting. I took some pictures that will be on my Web site by the time you read this column. Of course, there are other items that I can't miss, such as the specially prepared Coney Island hot dogs there, that are not found anywhere else, and you don't have to visit the Coney Island to get them because other restaurants also feature their own style of those hot dogs containing sauce with 11 herbs and spices (their words). There is

also a meat market that makes outstanding link sausages. We always try to bring some of them home to stash in our freezer. I assume many people remember foods like no other where they were born and raised.

Since time was scarce for us, we did miss the (some say world famous) Yale Bologna Festival in Yale, Michigan, which always hosts the "Outhouse races" (some say outrageous) and the "Cardboard Boat" races. It was our loss, but we could only spread ourselves so thin and still make our family events.

*Why Fix Me If I'm Going To Die Soon Anyway!

Lately I get that impression from a couple of my doctors. I consider them excellent doctors in their specialties, but I'm surprised by the attitude I've gotten lately, although they still send me for tests, but I'm not sure how much they look at them. I don't know if I'll have a talk with them or simply find new doctors who care, but I hope I'm not ready to kick the bucket just yet, although there's times when I wonder. Other people my age tell me they have also had that experience. I have already dropped the cardiologist I was seeing because his answers to my questions were always "In your case, there is nothing we can do." I don't think a doctor should take that attitude.

*Outlook Express Data Recovery

DataNumen Inc., a developer of data recovery solutions, has released its new product, Advanced Outlook Express Data Recovery (Version 1.0). It enables the users to recover Outlook Express e-mails even if the Outlook Express data (.DBX) files no longer exist. AOEDR can perform recovery in all versions of Microsoft Outlook Express e-mails, and will recover data from any drives or disks (hard disks, flash drives, floppy disks, Zip disks, CD-ROMs, etc.); even in case they are corrupted. AOEDR can also recover a batch of disks. The upper disk size limit for AOEDR is 16777216 TB (i.e. 17179869184 GB).

When will AOEDR prove useful?

- If the Outlook Express .DBX files have been deleted and the Recycle Bin has been accidentally emptied;
- If the Outlook Express .DBX files have been permanently deleted by mistake.
- If the drive containing the Outlook Express .DBX files has been formatted by mistake.

- If the partition containing the Outlook Express .DBX files has been deleted by mistake.
- If the disk has been re-partitioned by mistake, and the drive containing the .DBX files has been lost;
- If drive or disk containing the .DBX files cannot be read due to hardware failure;
- If the drive or disk containing the .DBX files cannot be started/recognized due to corruption in Master Boot Record or other reasons;
- In any case, when the Outlook Express data stored in the local drives or disks cannot be accessed.

Advanced Outlook Express Data Recovery runs under Windows 95/98/Me/NT/2000/XP/2003 Server/Vista/2008 Server. A single-user personal license costs \$249.95 US. A 20% discount is offered by using the coupon code DATA-E2OI-TWEN when the user purchases products from our website at <http://www.datanumen.com/aoedr/order.htm>. Discount will only be good during Nov. and Dec. Both ShareIt.com and RegNow.com will accept this coupon code and apply the 20% discount to the purchaser. Multi-user discounts are available. Further information on the product, as well as its free trial edition, is available at <http://www.datanumen.com/aoedr/>.

Direct download link: <http://www.datanumen.com/aoedr/aoedr.exe> (1.3 MB)

Company web-site: <http://www.datanumen.com>

Contact information can also be found at <http://www.datanumen.com/contact.htm>

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***Need A New 3D Address Book?**

Studio V5 Corp. has released 3D AddressBook 2.0, the software that enables users to manage their contacts in an

innovative, fun, and easy to use environment combining 2D and 3D views. The software includes plenty of visual and sound effects, such as an explosion on deleting records, record zooming in selection, as well as 4 hours of ambient music. You can choose from 30+ ready to use address templates or easily create a customized address book to fit your needs. You can add or edit fields, sort the data by any field, create filters and reports, or search data quickly and easily. The Notes field will help you track record history and while using the import option, you can directly import the data from well-known applications such as Windows Address Book, MS Outlook, MS Excel, etc.

Main features include:

- Innovative and easy-to-use user interface which gives both 2D and 3D data view;
- Built-in ambient music;
- Easy address book creation from a scratch or using one of 30+ templates;
- Customize or add new fields: text, numeric, image, formula, attachments, etc;
- Easy data find using quick or full search;
- Sort data by any field;
- Create, save, and apply customized filters;
- Create customized reports for printing;
- Use notes field for record history and to-do items;
- Easy data import directly from MS Excel, MS Outlook, Windows Address Book, MS Access, Comma-Separated text files and more.

System Requirements: Windows XP/Vista, Pentium 1.4Ghz, 256 MB RAM, 32 MB, OpenGL compatible video card, DirectX 8.1 compatible sound card and 500 MB free space.

The price of software registration is \$29.95, but a 33% discount is available by using the coupon code

“2AEJ-55PC-VVR3,” valid only during November and December.

Product page: <http://www.studio-v5.com/3d/db/>

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Mountain Computer User Group November 2009 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	Larry Morgan	Dick Generas
8	9	Dolly Davis	11	12	13	14
15	Adrienne Cassady	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	Gerald Shenkman	Larry Garrett	27	28
29	30	31				



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Mikele & Adam Carter	11/09/1969	40 yrs
Jim & Billie Bell	11/27/1971	38 yrs
Dolly & Bob Davis	11/08/19??	?? yrs
John & Btrnda Cassady	11/29/19??	?? yrs