Bowie Seniors Computer Club Minutes for Jan. 7, 2010

Carl Bulger and Dan Lee presided.

We had six visitors. The following three became members:

Paul Smith – He has an HP computer with Vista.

AnneMarie Thompson has Windows 7 on her computer

Lou Hauf worked for Verizon Information Systems & Desktop Support for over 20 years and is now helping World Computer Exchange refurbish old computers to be sent to developing countries.

PRESENTATION:

Eric Hein discussed and demonstrated Screen Capturing. He has posted the PowerPoint slides for his seminar on our website's Training page:
http://BSCClub.home.comcast.net/training.htm
The link to his Screen Capture seminar is the last item on the page. We were fortunate that he had put it on the website prior to his talk and demonstration because the Senior Center's laptop would not accept Eric's 8GB flash drive on which he had also stored the presentation.

One of the sub themes of Eric's Screen Capture seminar was that there are usually many ways of accomplishing your goals in personal computing.

He discussed four ways to Capture a screen image:
  (1) Use the Print Screen key which copies the image to the Clipboard.
  (2) Use the Snipping Tool in Vista or Windows 7 (Start>Programs>Accessories>Snipping Tool)
  (3) Freeware such as WinSnap v.1.1. You can obtain it by clicking on the link under Utilities on the Website's Freeware page.
  (4) Commercial Screen Capture utilities such as HyperSnap. He's been using this for a long time. Here's a link to a comparison of it with nine other Screen Capture utilities:
  http://screen-capture-software-review.toptenreviews

Screen Capture is an image of the screen in (.jpg, .gif, .bmp, .png, etc.), image format. It captures the image from video ram and writes it to the hard disk, by-passing the application from which the image was obtained.

You may want to also capture the image of the cursor pointing to an object of interest. There are two ways to do this: (1) The Screen Capture software will have **hot keys** which can capture the image containing the cursor. (2) Some Screen Capture applications provide a delay so that you have time to reposition the cursor after triggering the capture process with the mouse.

On every keyboard is a Print Screen key, often abbreviated "prt scr". It's usually shares the same key with another function and appears as the upper-case function. Press SHIFT-PRT SCR to copy an image of the entire screen to the clipboard. If you want an image of just the active window, press ALT-PRT SCR instead. You can then PASTE the image from the clipboard to Microsoft's PAINT or some other program.

If your operating system is Vista or Windows 7, you have a Snipping Tool (Start > Programs > Accessories>Snipping Tool). You can use it to capture an image of anything on your screen except the cursor.

The Snipping Tool will capture the full screen, a selected rectangle, a window, or an irregular area which you define with the mouse and the cursor. The Snipping Tool is unable to capture the image of the cursor. There is one hot key CNTL-PRT SCR which will capture Pop up Menus and Tool Tips. Eric is able to capture stills from Media Player videos on his system. Try it. You may be able to, also.

If you are still using Windows XP there is a freeware equivalent of the Snipping Tool available on our website's Freeware page at http://bscclub.home.comcast.net/freeware.htm >> Freeware >> System Tools >> Screen Capture >> WinSnap v.1.1.10, which is the last free version of WinSnap. It will not capture a freeform area,

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but it will capture the full screen, a window, or region. In addition, its Client Area will capture a window without the border and caption. It will capture pop-up windows, stills from a Media Player video, and make snapshots of all open windows in an application. It has many hot keys and will allow you to re-configure them.

Eric has been using HyperSnap, a more capable Screen Capture application which costs about $40. For a review of its capabilities and a comparison with other commercial screen capture applications, go to http://screen-capture-software-review.toptenreviews.com/

HyperSnap has more options than the Snipping Tool and WinSnap. It will capture the cursor using hot keys. It will also capture the entire Video Ram (Virtual Screen). Eric uses this to capture a side-by-side display of two monitors, one a VGA monitor and the other a DVI monitor.

To reduce "white space", Hyper-Snap will allow you to capture a strip from a window. It will also allow you to program a delay for screen captures and allow you to capture text.

I used WinSnap to capture the table on Eric's last slide comparing the three screen capture applications. I recommend that you go to his PowerPoint presentation for a better view, and to review the features he demonstrated.

http://BSCClub.home.comcast.net/training.htm

 >> click on the link to **Screen Capture** at the bottom of the page.

This table is on the last slide of Eric's Screen Capture presentation:

Final Comparisons

	Snipping_Tool	WinSnap	HyperSnap
Size (MB)	1.3	.3	6.4
Ease of use	Easy	Easy	Easy (for basics)
Captures cursor	No	No	Yes
Features (1-10)	7	7	10+
availability	Vista/Win7 (not Basic)	free	$40

Can't read it? Go to his PowerPoint presentation at the link above.