

Dan Lee presided.

Mark Laster's 8-10 yr. old HP computer with the XP operating system is experiencing slow boots. The boot button is very sensitive. He doesn't think it is caused by malware; a complete scan with Malwarebytes found nothing. Dan Lee suggested checking RAM (memory) capacity. Increasing the amount of RAM can have a big effect on computer speed. Others suggested that he click on START > Run and type in msconfig. When the dialog box comes up, click on START. There will be a list of the programs or processes that start up on boot. Uncheck the boxes in front of programs that you don't need to have running when you boot up. Some users uncheck ALL of the boxes. The operating system will start those programs or processes that are essential to operation. Each time you boot up after that a dialog box will open saying that you are running an experiment and do you want to continue? Just check the box saying Continue and Don't Ask in the future. Some programs check for an update each time you boot up. You probably don't need to do that every time. Shorten the boot time by unchecking those programs.

Ken Godstrete asked about syncing emails. We got into a long discussion about the process and preferences for downloading emails from the web server and either erasing or leaving the message on the server. Ken wanted to leave it on the server so he could access it with other computers or mobile devices. We then got into how you find the settings for both the web server and the client software on his computer. Dick Henthorn brought up several points regarding Gmail. Dave McGonagle said that Microsoft's Outlook can be downloaded from the Verizon server if he has Verizon FiOS broadband service.

After Microsoft's Updates issued on Tuesday, August 6, Dick Henthorn's computer experienced a change in the size of characters which could be a change in image resolution or merely a change in font size selection.

Dan Lee visited China in July. He had lots of advice and information. Here's a sample:

"I was on a trip to China during the month of July. I took an HP Mini netbook and an iPad to stay in touch and to back-up my pictures. I took two cameras - a Canon Rebel digital single lens reflex and a smaller Canon digital point-and-shoot.

An internet connection (ethernet cable) was generally free or available for a price at all the hotels we stayed in. Eight of the ten hotels did not charge a fee. A Sheraton and a former Sheraton did charge for internet access. There were no computers provided in our rooms at any of the hotels. (On a previous trip we found desktop computers but Windows XP was in Chinese which was unreadable.) Only three hotels had free wi-fi in the rooms. Some hotels had wi-fi in the lobby area. Desktop computers were available in some lobbies or business centers. Enroute to/from China, free wi-fi was available in the Baltimore, Hong Kong and San Francisco airports. Chicago's O'Hare Airport charges

To backup my pictures, I used a memory card reader to transfer the images from both Compact Flash and SDHC cards to the netbook. I further saved everything to a flash drive. I should have taken the appropriate Apple cords for saving images to the iPad which I failed to do. It would have been nice to let people see the pictures during the trip itself. I took lots and lots of pictures. The DSLR suffered a cracked lens filter when dropped. Also, the new Kingston 16 GB CF memory cards for that camera

couldn't be read by the new memory card reader so I reverted to some older 2 and 4 GB CF cards. As a result, the majority of my pictures were taken on the smaller point-and-shoot camera that uses SDHC cards. Several of us on the trip were going through two camera batteries daily.

For future overseas trips, I recommend taking:

- 1) a universal AC power plug adapter in order to recharge the computers, tablets (iPad, Kindle) and cameras (adapters usually available on request)
- 2) ethernet cable (usually provided but not at one hotel)
- 3) large capacity memory cards and flash drives
- 4) a memory card reader and/or appropriate interface cables
- 5) spare camera batteries

Needless to say, have back-ups and check everything carefully before going.

Additional note: CNN was available on the hotel TVs but is not available to the Chinese in their homes. The NY Times, Facebook and Twitter and certain words are blocked on the internet. Skype can be used."

At an earlier meeting we discussed possibly visiting the Prince George's County Materials Recycling Facility. Dan Lee suggested that this is not computer-related, but he chased down the information you need to schedule a personal morning visit. The webpage describing the facility, which is run by Waste Management Corporation, is reprinted below. For a morning tour call Courtney at (301) 499-1707.



Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive



Samuel E. Wynkoop, Jr.
Director



Prince George's County Materials Recycling Facility Fact Sheet

1000 Ritchie Road
Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743

- The Prince George's County Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) opened in October 1993.
- This 65,000 square-foot facility is owned by Prince George's County Government and was designed, constructed and is operated by Waste Management, Inc.
- Prior to November 1, 2007, the MRF operated as a dual-stream system where all paper products had to be collected and delivered separately from commingled material.
- Renovations to convert the MRF to a single-stream processing facility commenced in March 2007. Today, the County's MRF is operating with the latest state-of-the-art equipment.
- Prince George's County is the only jurisdiction in the State of Maryland that owns a single-stream recycling center.
- Recyclables no longer need to be separated by the citizens and residents. All materials may now be collected, mixed together and processed at this facility.
- Advantages of a single-stream system include:
 - ◆ Technological advances;
 - ◆ Ease and convenience to County residents and citizens;
 - ◆ Increased recycling rate;
 - ◆ Reduced collection cost; and
 - ◆ Increased types of material collected.

The MRF is open for free tours to the public, schools and other groups on weekdays only. To schedule a tour, please call (301) 499-1707.

Cortney