

Bowie Seniors Computer Club Minutes for Jan. 6, 2011

Carl Bulger presided.

We had two visitors:

Jerry Seidel sat in for the second time. He's often seen at the ping-pong tables.

William Alli is an ex-Marine, Bowie Homesteader (moved to Bowie in 1962), worked for the State Department (AID) in Pakistan, and has written a memoir of his experiences in the Korean War, *Too Young for a Forgettable War*.

Enar Sanders asked two questions:

Is the AVG security software supplied by Comcast sufficient?

AVG is good but Vic Kiviat, another Comcast customer, recommended Microsoft's Security Essentials, a free, effective anti-malware program. Security Essentials doesn't include a firewall. I've used Security Essentials on my Windows 7 computer for several months with no problems. The only software firewall I'm using is the Windows firewall. The router provides a hardware firewall.

The most respected independent anti-virus software testing lab is <http://www.av-comparatives.org/>. They not only test for effectiveness, but now also, for effects on computer performance. The version of MS Security Essentials they last tested was version 1.0. Version 2.0 is now available.

How do I transfer my emails from Windows Live Mail to Outlook?

Bob Blum suggested that Enar look for an "Export" command in Windows Live Mail. Then look for the "Import" command in Outlook.

Presentation: Wi-Fi by Dan Lee

Dan showed a Dell laptop that did not have Wi-Fi capability. He wanted to upgrade it to have Wi-Fi. The Dell rep commented that it would have cost a minimal additional amount to buy it with that capability, but to upgrade will cost more. Normally, there is a small internal card that varies with manufacturer and model. An older-style plug-in called a PCMCIA Wi-Fi card can provide this capability provided the PCMCIA plug is available and there is room. Another option is a small USB plug-in informally called a "dongle" that contains the Wi-Fi antenna and transmitter/receiver.

There is also the option of Wi-Fi on the go "Wireless Mobile" at cellphone speeds of 3-5 Mbps.

If you want Wi-Fi at home, you'll need a Wireless Base Station, the functional equivalent to a cellphone tower.

The boxes provided by Verizon FiOS and Comcast are sometimes

called "Gateways". They provide three functions:

- 1) A **modem** to **MOdu**-late/**DE**modulate the outgoing/incoming signal.
- 2) A **router** to distribute the signal to/from one or more computers, either by Ethernet cables or by Wi-Fi, or both..
- 3) A **Wireless Base Station** which receives/transmits the wireless signal.

Nancy Lewis asked **if there is anyone that could install a home wireless system**. Bob Blum recommended Tom Curley (Not a Geek). He also recommends looking in the Pennysaver for ads offering tech services.

To determine what components you need, Vic Kiviat recommended an interactive program on D-Link's website. D-Link is a vendor of modems, routers, wireless base stations, and other home and business networking devices. <http://www.dlink.com/solution-Flashes/?type=2&rid=3>

The Consumer Electronics Show is going on in Las Vegas. Carl Bulger found some recommendations in Iomega's newsletter. CNET is there. Rob Pegararo of the Washington Post is also there and he has several reviews on his Washington Post blog. <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/fasterforward/> Many of the reviewers say that the emphasis this year is on tablets with Google's Android operating system. Pegararo concluded that Mi-

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Microsoft is becoming increasingly irrelevant to computer hardware. Microsoft's Steve Balmer's convention address didn't impress anyone.

Several members recommended online file-sharing, collaboration and storage: Mozy, BoxNet, and DropBox Collaborator.

<http://www.technospot.net/blogs/dropbox-vs-boxnet-two-online-collaboration-and-file-sharing-giants-compared/>

Eric Hein mentioned that Office Depot is selling some good software applications for free after mail-in rebates if you buy any tax software.

Bob Blum mentioned that Tax Act has a free version (\$17.95 with e-filing).

Bob Rapczynski said that the IRS and IRS contractors and the State of Maryland have free interactive forms online. If you have all of your data ready to enter, you can probably e-file for free. You can download the forms and instructions, fill in the forms, then go back online to enter your data.

Dan Lee is soliciting ideas for future programs. Eric Hein suggested discussions of some of the freeware featured on the web page of the Senior Center Computer Club's website, such as Team Viewer and VNC. (near the bottom of the webpage) <http://home.comcast.net/~BSCClub/freeware.htm> **Remote Desktop Sharing - Remote Access:**

☀ Remote control software allows you to view and fully interact with one computer desktop (the "server") using a simple program (the "client" or "viewer") on another computer desktop anywhere on the Internet.

- [Teamviewer](#): ☐ - establishes connections to any PC or server all around the world within just a few seconds. You can remote control your partner's PC as if you were sitting right in front of it.
- [VNC](#) (Virtual Network Computer): ☐ The two computers don't even have to be the same type, so for example you can use VNC to view a Windows Vista desktop at the office on a Linux or Mac computer at home. For ultimate simplicity, there is even a Java viewer, so that any desktop can be controlled remotely from within a browser without having to install software.