Bowie Seniors Computer Club Minutes for Feb. 18, 2010

Carl Bulger presided.

Bob Blum demonstrated **How to Download and Play Video Clips (Files).**

This subject got its start at last meeting when Enar Sanders complained that he couldn't play You Tube video files with the .flv file extension. Windows Media Player won't play files in that format. Bob suggested a free program called VLC Media Player.

After that meeting Bob decided that he would give a more complete demonstration of How to Download and Play Video Clips using either the Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox browsers.

First, you must **make file extensions visible**. If they aren't already visible, in Windows 7 open Windows Explorer>>Libraries>>Organize>>Folder and search Options>>Folder Options >>View>>Advanced Settings >>UNCHECK the box in front of "Hide extensions for known file types". In Windows XP it is easier: Start>>Control Panel >> Folder Options >> View >> Advanced Settings >> UNCHECK the box in front of "Hide Extensions for known file types."

To download and play video clips in the Internet Explorer browser you have the choice of a one- or two-step process: You can either download the video clip using "IE Download Helper" and convert its format to the MPEG-4 (.mp4) format in one step OR you can

download it using IE Download Helper http://ie-downloadhelper.-com in the existing format (e.g., .flv), then convert it to .mp4 using WinFF (Windows File Format) http://www.winff.org utility. With either method you must begin playing the video clip before you can download it.

In the Mozilla Firefox browser, you must use a two-step process. Again, you must begin playing the video clip before you download it. In FireFox you can use NetVideoHunter http://netvideo-hunter.com to download the clip in the same format as on the internet (e.g., .flv). As in IE, you convert it to the .mp4 format using the WinFF utility.

Our Webmaster, Dick Henthorn, will post Bob Blum's PowerPoint slides on our website.

Dick asked what others recommend to download **audio** files. Eric Hein suggested he go to our website where there are two free programs on the Freeware page under MultiMedia: Audio Editors: Audacity and Goldwave v4.26.

Someone asked if there is a way to save a streaming audio. Ted Tuck said it depends on your audio card. With his audio card he can click anything that he can hear and it will be converted to a file with a .wav extension which can be saved. Eric Hein said that there is no free program for recording streaming audio but Total Recorder http://www.totalrecord-er.com/downloads.htm, which

costs $18 to $100, depending on the version and capabilities, will make a one-to-one (no compression) recording. He uses it.

Computer Problems:

Vail Clemence had a problem associating PowerPoint with the .pps file extension.

Someone had an issue with Skype's audio. Our expert Skype user, Dan Lee, was out of town. In the absence of any other Skype user, we referred her to our website and the minutes for the March 5, 2009 meeting when Dan demonstrated Skype.

Ted Tuck wants to know if he can move XP to a second hard drive and then install Windows 7 on the primary drive in a dual boot configuration. He has the more expensive stand-alone copy of Windows 7 (not an upgrade copy). It is my understanding that he can do so. In fact, some experts have reported on the internet and in magazines that they have done so with an upgrade copy of Windows 7. It isn't strictly legal but the upgrade disk gives you the option. However, the primary hard disk must be large enough to accommodate both Windows 7 and XP, because the upgrade copy puts them both on the same hard disk.

Vail Clemence warned that whatever you choose to do, backup your system before installing Windows 7. If you're upgrading from Vista, your old set-

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tings and documentation will also be saved in a file named "Windows.old".

On the subject of cybersecurity, Vail pointed out that no matter how well we protect our own computers, we are still vulnerable to hackers because, as we read in the Washington Post and elsewhere, the computer systems of big corporations, banks, and the government agencies with which we do business are frequently being hacked, and our personal information compromised.

For our March 18th meeting, Dan Lee has invited two speakers who generated a lot of interest when they were last here: Our guests will be Mr. Tavon Jones, an Apple Solutions Consultant for the Mid-Atlantic Area/Best Buy Annapolis, and Mr. William Ringnose, Geek Squad Special Agent.

Our meeting on March 4th will be an informal meeting. Bring your computer problems, ideas, and concerns for discussion. As an extra incentive to attend this meeting Vic Kiviat will raffle off the last free subscriptions from Smart Computing Magazine. The winners will have only until April 1st to register the subscriptions, because Smart Computing Magazine has dropped their promotion giving a free subscription for every five paid subscriptions that club members order.