

# Bowie Seniors Computer Club Minutes for March 19, 2009

Carl Bulger presided.

New Member: Mary Tyler

Follow up to Bob Davis' March 5 query:

Bob Rapczynski said that he had successfully installed Adobe's Photo Elements 2 on more than one computer. Whether this is can be done with the latest version, Photo Elements 6, he doesn't know. Bob Davis will just have to try installing Photo Elements 6 on his two computers.

Nora Darc has more problems with her computer than just a hard drive. She's now looking for an inexpensive or used computer. Bob Rapczynski volunteered to help set it up.

Carl Bulger requested us all to wear name tags after he was elected President so he could learn everyone's name. Eric Hein has been the only one wearing a name tag. Anybody have a suggestion for a way to encourage everyone to have one. Charlotte Melichar suggested that we wear double name tags, one on our front and one on our back for the benefit of those sitting in the back of the room.

Mary Tyler wants to know how she can clear the hard drive of an old Win98SE computer of personal information such as credit card numbers and other financial data, social security numbers, address lists, etc., before she gets rid of it. After much discussion, we suggested using KillDisk. A free

version of the program can be downloaded from <http://www.killdisk.com/>. Caution: This will wipe everything off the disk including Windows.

Joe Clark has a five year old Dell computer with XP Service Pack 3, AVG antivirus, Ad-Aware and Spybot Search & Destroy anti-malware, and Zone Alarm firewall. It's getting very slow. How can he speed it up? Lots of suggestions:

1. Increase the amount of memory. Sam Duff suggested going to [www.Crucial.com](http://www.Crucial.com) where they have a program that will tell you what memory you have on your computer and the specifications of what you should order.
2. Stop unnecessary programs from initial startup. Start >> Run >> type "msconfig" >> select the Start Up tab >> uncheck any programs or processes you don't need at startup.
3. Cleanup. Start >> Programs >> Accessories >> System Tool >> Disk Cleanup >> Check boxes besides items to be cleaned. After that, Defragment your hard disk. "Defragment" is located directly under "Disk Cleanup".
4. To keep it working efficiently, don't use more than 75% of your hard disk's capacity.
5. Don't run Spybot Search and Destroy in the background or in Advanced Mode. It has some time-consuming features such as Teatimer that hog processor time. Any program that is protecting your computer in real time will consume processor cycles. Save them for the more critical Firewall and Anti-Virus programs and run anti-spyware programs intermittently. There are more effective antispyware programs available now. Two free programs are: Malwarebytes' Anti-Malware (<http://www.malwarebytes.org/mbam.php>) and SUPERAntispyware (<http://www.superantispyware.com/>).
6. Don't run two antivirus programs at the same time. Also don't run two firewall programs at the same time. If you have a standalone firewall program like Zone Alarm, make sure your Windows firewall is on at the same time. Start >> Control Panel >> Security Center >> Windows Firewall >> Off
7. Clean the Registry. Bob Blum recommended a couple of free, gentle, registry cleaners at the Feb. 19 meeting: Wise Registry Cleaner ([www.wisecleaner.com](http://www.wisecleaner.com)) and Glary Registry Cleaner ([www.glarysoft.com](http://www.glarysoft.com)). Backup the registry before cleaning it. Many registry

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cleaners do this automatically or make it easy to choose having it done beforehand.

8. Uninstall programs that you don't use.
9. Run your anti-virus and anti-malware programs occasionally. Viruses and malware can significantly slow your computer.

Dale Grant cannot print messages he is reading in Juno popmail, but he can if he is reading the same message in Juno Webmail. When he hits the Print Icon, an hour-glass icon appears and stays there for a very long time. He is unable to exit. He uninstalled Juno and reloaded Juno, which wiped out all of his old messages, without any improvement.

Ted Tuck is getting interested in Robotics. He's looking for old hard drive motors to use in the robots he's building. Also, he wonders if there is anyone familiar with C language he is using to program the robots.

Carl Bulger wonders why his friend cannot click on links that Carl sends him in email messages. His friend has Verizon with MSN Premium and Outlook Express. (I have Verizon FiOS with MSN Premium and have no problem with links unless they have been blacklisted by one of the anti-malware programs like SpyBlaster. I've never used Outlook Express because I read my email as web-mail. Verizon mail uses Outlook or Outlook Express. MSN is a

Microsoft company. Their default email program is MSN Explorer. For connecting to the web it uses whatever version of Internet Explorer you use. I use Internet Explorer 8 Release Candidate 1, so MSN Explorer also uses that.) He can check "Internet Options" in Control Panel or in Internet Explorer. Under the Security Tab he can add or subtract sites in the Trusted Zone. He can also check to see if he has his security set to maximum. If his friend's computer is infected with the Conficker worm, he won't be able to click on any links to security software firms or to Microsoft.

Bob Davis is having trouble with his Microsoft Natural Laser Wireless Mouse. When he clicks the mouse, windows and pages are multiplied, filling up his screen. Someone suggested that he re-download the Microsoft IntelliPoint 6.0 software and reinstall the driver.

The club is being "stonewalled" by the City Manager and the City's IT Department regarding our request for permission to switch the computers in the lab over to the Comcast Account that the Senior Center's Public Access computers on on.

Norm Bohrer can't get rid of a Notes pane on the right side of his document in Word 2007. Bob Davis suggested trying "Reset".

Dan Lee attended FOSE Convention where he talked to Dell, HP, and Lenovo about the availability

of the same discounts that their employees get. Dell increases the discount with the number of years purchased in their maintenance and warranty plan. HP makes you wait a few days while they create a number for you. Lenovo requires you to know an IBM/Lenovo employee. You must persuade the employee to loan you his employee number. Each employee is allowed to load their employee number twenty times per year.

In the March 5 minutes, I neglected to list the freeware that Dr. Norm Bohrer discussed. He had a listing from the January 2009 issue of Computer Shopper <http://computershopper.com/feature/the-best-free-software-35-must-have-downloads>

Office Productivity:

Google Docs

Lotus Symphony 1.1

Open Office

Operating Systems:

Many versions of Linux including Ubuntu and OpenSUSE

PDF Creator:

Cute PDF Writer

Remote Access:

LogMein Free

Team Viewer

Tax Preparation:

Intuit Turbo Tax Online

TaxAct 2008 Online

TaxSlayer.com Classic

Photo Editing:

Picasa 3

Picnik

Photoscape

Video and Audio Editing:

Audacity.sourceforge.net

Jahshaka

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JumCut

JayCut

Photo Management:

Photobucket

Flickr

Kodak Gallery

Desktop Publishing:

Scribus Desktop Publishing

Serif PagePlus SE

Top Ten Games:

Rails

Rumble Box

Track Mania Nations Forever

N

War Rock

Synaesthete

Kingdom of Loathing

Sauerbraten CTF Edition

Crayon Physics

Freeware test adventures

Bonus: Command and Conquer:

Red Alert

Another recent article listing free software:

“Best Free Software of 2009” by  
PCMag.com <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2338803,00.asp>