

Bowie Seniors Computer Club Meeting on August 20, 2015

Presiding: Carl Bulger

This was a meeting without a formal presentation.

Dan Lee has successfully gotten BSCC approved as a “referring agency” for Project Reboot, a non-profit that provides computers to needy individuals at a very low cost.

Requesting individuals will self-certify that they meet the Project Reboot criteria for a computer. They do not need to be a “senior – over age 55”. (Dan has coordinated this with Kathy White.)

Certain BSCC members (TBD later) will sign and issue the forms. Individuals can complete personal info themselves. No need for us to save a copy. Let Dan Lee know, however, the individual’s name and the date.

Dan has learned that the Microsoft stores at Montgomery Mall, Tyson’s Corner Mall, and Pentagon City will remove malware for free if you take your computer in there.

Location of Microsoft Stores in this area: Montgomery Mall, Tyson's Corner and Pentagon City

[Free in-store services](#)

Whether you bought your PC from Microsoft or somewhere else, our Answer Desk experts will repair any software-related issue, including the following services, for free:

- Extended diagnostics on any device
- Software repair or support
- Virus and malware removal
- PC tune-ups for increased performance
- Recycle for Rewards appraisal with store credit

By the way, Chesapeake Computer has been closed for months.

Assistants are needed for the computer classes. Volunteers should contact Laurel Raymond, Asst. Director of the Center.

The annual election (or non-election) is coming up on October 1st. Nominations are requested in September.

Four of the members present had upgraded at least one computer to Windows 10. Here are some of their comments:

Dennis Evans –The new Edge browser that is replacing Internet Explorer is written in HTML5. Therefore, it doesn't support Javascript or Adobe Flash.

Tom McCabe installed it on a "simple" machine (4 cores, 6GB Ram). He says the bootup is SLO-O-O-O-O-W. Is this because it is applying the mandatory updates? Tom says he hates blank screens and there are a lot of them. At least it would be nice if the rotating dots that are featured in Win 8.1 were there indicating something is going on.

Eric Hein said that the rotating dots are only a .jpg file and don't always indicate action or progress. Eric suggests looking at the video signal LED to see if it is blinking. He thinks the automatic updates are what is slowing the boot process. He mentioned that his wife only uses the computer at home for browsing with Firefox and for Microsoft Office. She hardly notices that there is a new operating system.

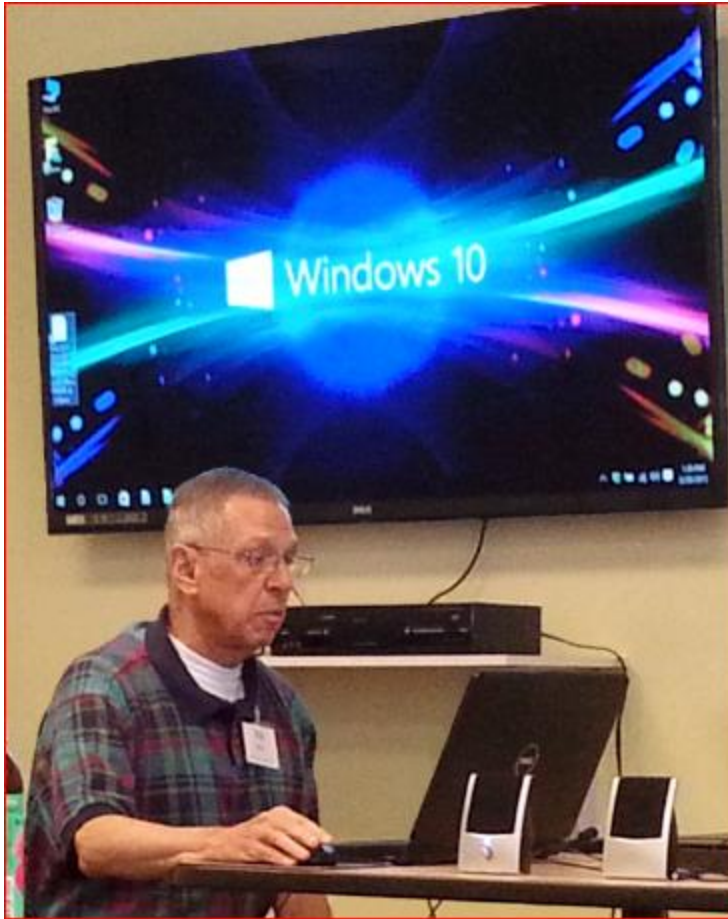


Photo by Dennis Edgington

Bob Blum has been a Windows 10 beta tester and has previewed it for us several times. He even corrected Steve Deming on a couple of points while acknowledging that Steve had the disadvantage of presenting Windows 10 only a week after it was released.

Bob demonstrated Cortana, the Personal Digital Assistant. Responses were either audible or answers on websites. Cortana can be disabled by going to Cortana and clicking "off".

The EDGE browser is not totally perfected but is faster than Firefox or Chrome. Bob demonstrated ways to clip or copy portions of webpages and emailing them or otherwise using them.

Bob suggested going to the Windows 10 Activation Area and downloading the Windows 10 Media Creation Tool from Microsoft. Make an .iso copy of the

Windows 10 operating system, copy it to a large flash memory stick so that if something bad happens, you can reinstall Windows 10.

Give up on the idea of ever finding or knowing your Windows 10 product key. This is hidden and automatic.

Trouble installing Windows 10? Forget being able to contact a live person.

But, you can reset to the operating system you were upgrading from if you don't like Windows 10.

Before upgrading, check your system's compatibility with Windows 10. Microsoft offers a Compatibility Assistant or Review.

Also, if you know how, disconnect all internal and external hard drives but the one you have your present operating system installed on and to which you want Windows 10 installed.

Above all, BACKUP! Using your favorite backup program, create a system image and be sure that you can restore it in case the upgrade becomes a disaster. Bob suggests recording the image on a 1Terabyte Flash Drive (approx.. \$70) and creating a rescue disk for peace of mind in case something goes wrong.

If you want to wait to install Windows 10 or you don't want it at all, you can check for update file history. Look for KB 3035583 and hide it. Or, type at a Command Prompt>WUSA/UNINSTALL/KB 3035583

We discussed TV/internet/telephone prices, internet speeds, Verizon vs. Comcast.

Eric Hein said that the Verizon remotes use infrared and are line-of-sight. In his living room, because of the replacement of the chairs, only one viewer has channel switching control. Solution: Download the Verizon app to a smartphone and use the smartphone as a remote.

Tom McCabe complained about the picture quality of Netflix in the middle of evening. Eric Hein, a big Netflix user, said that in the Netflix settings is a Standard Definition/High Definition choice.

We are about to lose our free Comcast website. Vic Kiviat is encouraging the original website committee to meet and decide what to do.

These minutes were prepared by the old Secretary, Barry Hammond, in the temporary absence of Bill Long.