Bowie Seniors Computer Club Minutes for Oct. 2, 2008

Dale Grant presided.

The Nominees and Volunteers as Club Officers for the coming year were elected by acclamation. They are:
Carl Bulger – President
Dan Lee – Vice-President and Program Chairman
Barry Hammond – Secretary
Ken Godstrey - Treasurer
Dennis Edgington – Membership
Vic Kiviat – Publicity
Bill Meenahan – Webmaster

Program Chairman is the toughest job. Three people volunteered to serve on his committee: Eric Hein, Carl Bulger, and Charlotte Melichar.

Dale Grant, having ably served as President for two years, gladly yielded the floor to his successor Carl Bulger.

Presentation:

Eric Hein demonstrated the process of backing up a computer's C: drive partition by imaging it with Norton Ghost 8. He then erased the partition by reformatting it. Finally, he restored the C: drive partition from the image he had created with Norton Ghost.

The computer he used to demonstrate this was an older computer with a Windows 98 operating system. The version of Norton Ghost he used was Version 8. The latest version is 14, which is capable of backing up and restoring the Vista operating system and computer networks. Bob

Blum warned that if you buy this software, or any software for that matter, be sure you are not buying a version intended for a 64-bit operating system if your computer has a 32-bit Windows operating system. Most do.

While waiting for the hard disk image backup, re-formatting, and image restore processes to finish, Eric offered a presentation and discussion of them. He has posted his slides in PDF format on his personal website at http://mysite.verizon.net/hein1/Training/Backup_Scheme_0810.pdf Please download them to your own computer so that you don't tie up his website.

Eric demonstrated imaging an entire C: drive partition and restoring the entire image back to the C: drive. The advantage of an image of the entire partition is that you only have to restore that image if you lose your operating system, registry, or other critical software rather than spending hours to attempt to reload them individually or having to pay someone to spend hours doing it. But backing up the entire partition takes time. So Eric suggests that imaging be done infrequently (He does it every six months. In the meantime, he makes incremental and differential backups. Restoration of individual files can be done with full image backups or from the incremental or differential backups.

After the demonstration Albin Bielawsky asked why backup, if the process is so complicated?

What is so complicated about it? Many software applications require a little learning to enable the user to access their features. The richer, more complex applications often require more learning. Norton Ghost and Acronis True Image are relatively easy to learn.

Eric Hein is a retired physicist and programmer. He loves to get into the nitty-gritty of a process, procedure, or computer application. Warning of possible pitfalls, pointing out potential timesavers or quality improvements, describing auxiliary software, etc., is what he does extremely well. Don't conclude that you would have to deal with every situation or detail that he discussed. And remember, these backup and restore procedures could save your sanity if you lose your hard drive, data, or entire computer. A lot of us have and we'll never forget the experience.

Eric warns that we should practice restoring data after we've backed it up to make sure that we can do it in an emergency.

Don't forget to download his slides.