

Carl Bulger presided.



Photo of Bob Blum by Dennis Edgington

Bob Blum gave us another of his excellent demos of leading edge technology and software. This time it was a preview of Windows 8 which Microsoft hopes to have in final form by this coming October, three years after the introduction of Windows 7. To view his PowerPoint slides go to <http://home.comcast.net/~BSCClub/Windows 8 Preview.pdf>.

Windows 8's "Metro" interface reflects Microsoft's desire to be more relevant and useful to users of mobile phones and tablets while still being usable on laptop and desktop computers.

Submitted by Barry Hammond

There's no "Start Button" or "Pearl" on the screen. After pressing the device's Power Button, Windows 8 loads and the home page presents the Metro interface, consisting of rectangular "tiles" in place of the usual Windows desktop. Each tile contains an icon representing a function, application, folder, etc., which can be activated by pressing on it if you have a touchscreen or by clicking on it. All tiles are immediately visible; you have to scroll to see them all. With a touchscreen, scrolling is done with your finger. No labeling appears on the tiles so you have to remember the names of your applications. You can rearrange tiles.

To access the Start Menu and Start Button, go to the lower left corner, or press the Charms Bar on the right and press the Start Button or Start Menu, or press the Windows button on the keyboard.

If you want a Start Button on the Metro User Interface, a third-party app by Startdocks can supply one: www.stardock.com/products/start8/ This app also provides a Start Menu.

Internet Explorer is similar to that in Windows 7, but clicking a down arrow in the upper right hand corner brings up a "ribbon" similar to those in Office 2010.

PC Settings corresponds to Control Panel in previous versions of Windows. The "Refresh" function keeps your files but "blows away" your third-party apps. "Reset" blows away everything and reinstalls the manufacturer's version of Windows 8.

The anti-malware apps Microsoft Security Essentials and Windows Defender are incorporated in the operating system under the name Windows Defender.

This demo was another example of Bob Blum's pursuit of leading edge software and technology: He has found another free substitute for Microsoft Office: Kingsoft Office Suite Free 2012, which is roughly comparable to Microsoft Office 2003 and compatible with Microsoft Office. It is for personal use only but there are two paid versions with more features. www.kingsoftstore.com/kingsoft-office-freeware.html .

COMPUTER PROBLEMS:

Dan Lee mentioned Team Viewer as a possible way to assist his aunts with their computer problems. One stumbling block: an exception for it must be made in the firewall.

Whenever Internet Explorer opens on Vic Kiviat's Vista operating system or my Windows 7 operating system it opens in a smaller window rather than full screen. Dennis Evans said that it will open at the same size as it was closed. (Not true for me). Charlotte Melichar pointed out that in full screen mode you can get rid of the tool bars by hitting F11. The display will stay that way until you hit F11 again.

Becky Holliday lost the date a picture was taken in Photo Gallery. Several people pointed out that every .jpg or .jpeg image file has exif (Exchangeable Image File Format) metadata associated with it. There are various ways to get at it in Photo applications. Someone said there is a free exif viewer called iView. Go to properties in the menu. Dan Lee said there is an application called EXIF Date Changer. Someone else pointed out that File info is different than Picture or Image info.