

Minutes for Bowie Seniors Computer Club Meeting on Nov. 16, 2017

Carl Bulger presided.

Bob Blum was our speaker. Select Slideshow for the 20 slides illustrating his talk on Context Menus & Browser Add-ons in Windows 10. His subtitle: "Pest Control". He talked about controlling context menus (those menus that pop up when you right-click on a folder or directory). Apps commonly add items to context menus. You can simplify them by using the techniques Bob outlined to disable some of the added functions.

Improving browser experience included how to block ads, disable auto-start videos, and retrieve logins and passwords. Bob prefers Firefox which just came out with radically new version called Firefox Quantum which makes an effort to compete with Google Chrome and Microsoft Edge in speed and features. Bob used Firefox Quantum to illustrate his talk.

Don't get hung up on the slide about how to Prevent Videos from Autostarting in Firefox. In following slides, he demonstrates how to go to Firefox configuration module: type About:Config on the address line.

In the Q & A session afterwards, someone asked how to be able to eliminate the need to sign-in on the computer with a password. Bob's answer: type *netplwiz* on the Cortana search bar. Run the command administratively. Uncheck the box before "Users must enter a password to use this computer"

Computer Problems:

Dave Hackenberg asked for suggestions on what might be causing the hard drive on Computer #2 in the Computer Lab to "spin out of control" in Windows 10 but not in Windows 7, Linux, etc. Tom McCabe recommended running Hard Disk Sentinel.

Someone mentioned that Windows 10 updates are not working properly. Several people noted that the Fall Creator's Update is being offered, but it requires a lot of time to download and install. Go to Update & Security under Windows Settings. View installed update history for successful and failed attempts at installing updates. Experiment with Changing your active hours. Checkout Restart and Advanced Options. If you're still having trouble, select Troubleshoot in the left hand column of Update & Security items, then select Windows Update under Troubleshoot.

Also, under Troubleshoot is the item Blue Screen: Troubleshoot errors that cause windows to stop or restart unexpectedly. Someone asked what they should do with the information showing on a Blue Screen. If it is an Error Number, try Googling it. Lots of other people have probably had the same problem. You could also try the Blue Screen trouble shooter.

Dave Hackenberg mentioned that we had been approached to volunteer to help with a Maryland State Job Search website.

The next meeting will be our Annual Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 7th at 12 noon at the Osaka Grill and Supreme Buffet, 1633A Crofton Centre, Crofton MD 21114. [Osaka Grill Website](#) There is a coupon for \$1 off on this website.