

## Bowie Seniors Computer Club

Minutes for Bowie Seniors Computer Club Meeting on June 6, 2019.

Meeting presided over by President Carl Bulger

Speaker was Bob Blum who demonstrated some Stardock software and the latest version of the Microsoft operating system, Version 1903, which was first released on May 23rd. Most of us haven't received it yet. If you're anxious to get it, set aside 1-3 hours and download the Media Creation Tool. No major problems have been reported with this version.

Some features of the new version:

Cortana has been delinked from the Search Box.

Tiles can be unpinned from the Start Menu. The names of those tiles can still be selected from the list.

Cursor pointer size and color can be adjusted under Settings>Devices>Mouse

Screen Brightness can be adjusted with a slider at the bottom of the Action Center (lower right corner), although I didn't find it after I installed v.1903.

Bob demonstrated five Stardock software products ([www.stardock.com](http://www.stardock.com)):

Start10 (\$4.95) "brings back the Windows Start menu".

Window Blinds (\$9.99) allows you to select frames to surround pages on your monitor.

WindowsFX (\$9.99) a feature providing some automation to your computer. “WindowBlinds lets you customize desktop interface themes called skins to personalize the look and feel of your desktop.” WindowBlinds enables you to make your desktop interface uniquely yours by customizing the Start menu, taskbar, window frames, and control buttons.”

Fences (\$9.99) allows you to group icons representing similar programs together.

And, finally Object Desktop (\$29.99) which includes all of the above.

Stardock provides good tech support and they provide videos of each of these products on their website [www.stardock.com](http://www.stardock.com).

As a bonus, Bob demonstrated a new Firefox browser service available at [send.firefox.com](http://send.firefox.com) which provides end-to-end encryption of up to 2.5GB per file sent. The sender must have a Firefox account but the recipient does not. A link is created which can be sent to the recipient(s). You can choose the number of downloads permitted and the time the link is available.

George couldn't get into his SunTrust Bank account using Firefox. He had to go to the Chromium browser. Dick Henthorn found that he could access his Capital One Bank account without paying the \$3 ATM fee if he got a Capital One 360 online account. He also discovered that their ATMs are owned and operated by All Point, Inc. With the 360 Debit Card he may be able to use them without a fee.

For anonymity, two browsers you can use are DuckDuckGo and Tor.

The Motor Vehicle Administration is replacing old driver's licenses. Even some of the newer ones have to be verified by September 30, 2019. This involves proving who you are by

providing certain documents. If you receive a notification letter or email saying you're required to have your license verified or replaced, **MAKE AN APPOINTMENT!** Those that have say that the process takes 15-20 minutes. If you go in without an appointment, you could spend four hours waiting.

By Barry Hammond substituting for Secretary Bill Long