

TOGGLE

THE MICROCOMPUTER TURN (ON)

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TACOMA-SEATTLE AREA MICROCOMPUTER USERS

Volume 33

Number 12

May 2013

Issue #360

IN THIS ISSUE

PROGRAMS12 UPDATE

- Summary of contents 1

Communications Note & Tips

- To "Cloud" or Not To "Cloud,"
That Is the Question 2
- Security of the Cloud 3
- Social Media Basics 3
- New Type of Search Engine Provides More
Information With "Mind Mapping" .. 4
- How to open files without proprietary
software in Windows 5
- Webpage Font Size Too Small?
-Think about Screen Resolution 5

Operating System Notes & Tips

- Force Windows 7 to show the DVD
icon in the "Computer" window 6
- 7
- More People Miss the Old Windows
Start Menu Than Microsoft Would
Like to Say 7
- Windows 8: How to Disable
Secure Boot 7
- Using the command prompt to reveal
hidden files 8
- Dealing with files that suddenly
are hidden 8

Hardware Notes & Tips

- Good Enough 9
- Control Panel Gives Us Control
Over Mice 9
- Lessons Learned from Hurricane Sandy:
Don't rush to update 10

UPDATE

Communications

In *To "Cloud" or Not To "Cloud," That Is the Question* the author investigated what storage of file in the cloud meant and found several free sites and other related information.

In *Social Media Basics* the author tells us some of the differences and advantages of the various "social media" sites which are available if you want to avail yourself of their offerings.

In *New Type of Search Engine Provides More Information With "Mind Mapping"* the author describes a new kind of search engine. He notes that: *"The graphical interface takes some minimal experience to become familiar with it, but is easy to master. For those looking for a change from the major search engines, instaGrok is worthy of a try."*

In *How to open files without proprietary software in Windows* the author discusses Open Freely which is a free app that lets users check out many common files, including those associated with Microsoft Windows. These files might otherwise be unreadable with proprietary software.

In *Webpage Font Size Too Small? -Think about Screen Resolution* the author discusses, in some detail, how to change the screen resolution (i.e. type size) on your monitor.

Operating System

In *Force Windows 7 to show the DVD icon in the "Computer" window* the author notes that: "Windows 7 has the initial setup (default) configured to hide drives that are empty when viewing the Computer window." He then discusses how to make the DVD drive visible on screen.

In *More People Miss the Old Windows Start Menu Than Microsoft Would Like to Say* the author says: *"Just as early adopters warned, Windows 8 without Start is confusing. So confus-*

ing that people have gone out of their way to bring it back."

In *Windows 8: How to Disable Secure Boot* the author advises that: *"...you can't go about downgrading a Windows 8 system to Windows 7 without disabling Secure Boot."* then goes on to tell how to do it.

In *Using the command prompt to reveal hidden files* the author reminds us of an old technique to reveal files that are not displayed,

In *Dealing with files that suddenly are hidden* the authors give a slightly different take on the same subject as above.

Hardware

In *Good Enough* the author discusses low-cost tablet computers.

In *Control Panel Gives Us Control Over Mice* the author points out that there are: *"mouse options with tabs titled Buttons, Pointers, Pointer Options, Scrolling, Hardware, and Activities. If you are using a different version of Windows, the tab options will be Buttons, Pointers, Pointer Options, Wheel, and Hardware."*

In *Lessons Learned from Hurricane Sandy: Don't rush to update* the author comments on the value of NOT having the latest and greatest when disaster struck.

COMMUNICATIONS NOTES & TIPS

To Cloud' or Not To "Cloud," That Is the Question

Reviewed by Bart Koslow, Thousand Oaks PC Club, CA,
www.topcc.org, spatter (at) roadrunner.com
Submitted by Joan Frerichs, CIACUG Board Member,
www.ciacug.org, ciacug@ciacug.org

I'd heard of saving computer files to the "cloud," but I really didn't know very much about it until our April CIACUG meeting when David Williams provided members with a great deal of helpful information about how it works.

If you have never had your computer "crash," be destroyed in a fire or flood, be struck by lightning, or stolen, you have been exceptionally fortunate, or, perhaps, you haven't been computing very long. After spending many painstaking hours of inputting data, contact lists, medical histories, financial information, etc. on our first computer, we experienced a crash that lost all of that data forever. Many times you toss or shred the paper trail thinking your information is safe forever. How naive can one be? It can be an "oops moment," or it can be devastating. We had to consider ours an "oh phoo moment" and move on with life and start over, and that is disconcerting, to say the least. If you have business information and customer lists on your computer, it can put you out of business temporarily, at the very least.

If you've been backing up your files to an external hard drive, what if that is destroyed in a fire? If you've been religiously backing up your data to disc times two, putting one in the fire safe (not very safe) and taking one to an off-site location, that gets time-consuming and cumbersome. The easy solution - back it up to the "cloud."

If you are a non-business user, there are several cloud servers that give you a certain amount of free storage, and it was pointed out that it is a good plan to review the sites to see what they have to offer and then choose a couple that you feel fit your needs and you are comfortable with probably being around for the long-term. There have been servers that have "disappeared" in the past without ample warning for users to recall their data. Thus, it's a good plan to save the same data on more than one cloud server. If you are a business user or require more space than the free allotment, there will be a charge. With some servers you can increase your allotment by "recommending" their service to others, and if they should decide to sign on with that service, you may then be allowed additional storage space.

The next step is to set up your accounts, organize your files, save your files to the clouds and then synchronize your pc, your laptop, your iPad, etc. so that any changes you make to

any of your saved files will automatically be updated on all your devices. That's a time-saving plus. Also, you are able to access those files in the cloud from any web-based hardware that has access to the internet. You can also share data files, photos, etc. with friends and family. Be sure to remember, or write down, your user names and passwords.



Cloud Computing

Having secure access to all your applications and data from any network device

Following are some links to websites for comparison purposes:

- 20 Clever Apps and Services That Make Great Use of the Cloud - <http://bit.ly/Jydzv>
- Comparison of online backup services <http://bit.ly/5P003Z>
- Cloud Drive Comparison <http://rww.tofj2FUhI>
- The "Top Best Cloud Storage Companies" Reviewed! www.thetop10bestonlinebackup.com/cloud-storage
- 15 Best Free Online Data Storage & Backup Services <http://bit.ly/rQGblp>

Listed below are some of the free cloud storage servers and the amount of free storage:

- DropBox, 2 GB, www.dropbox.com
- Windows Skydrive, 7 GB, skydrive.live.com
- BOX, 5 GB, www.box.com
- Google Drive, 5 GB, drive.google.com
- SugarSync, 5 GB, www.sugarsync.com
- ASUS Webstorage, 2 GB, www.asuswebstorage.com/
- Wuala, 5 GB, www.wuala.com/
- Apple iCloud, 5 GB, www.icloud.com
- Amazon Cloud, 5 GB, www.amazon.com/clouddrive

You might also be interested in checking out the following:

- Google Music - play.google.com/music
- TonidoSync - www.tonido.com
- LiveMesh - download.cnet.com/Live-Mesh-2011/
- Social Folders - socialfolders.me
- Insync, ww.insynchq.com/Teradesk, (?) www.teradesk.net

Now, get organized and SAVE, SAVE, SAVE (TO THE CLOUD). It can keep you safe and sane.*

Security of The Cloud

by Digital Dave, UCHUGDL2013-03

Dear Digital Dave, ComputerEdge, 1 February, 2013

How secure is the Cloud? We don't know if our information would be exposed to all. We are thinking of putting all of our information into the Cloud'' until we can re-do our computer, etc. The Cloud (Internet Services for storage and apps) has certainly become popular in the last few years. It seems that almost everyone is offering some type Cloud storage capability whether it's Apple iCloud, Microsoft Skydrive, Google Drive, Amazon's Cloud Drive, Dropbox, or many others. The battle is on and almost all the services offer some level of free Internet storage. There are a few concerns with Cloud storage. Yours is security.

Since Cloud storage is over the Internet--which everyone accesses--security is a natural concern. There have been a few notable breakdowns that make many people wary of trusting Cloud services. However, those failures made all the players up their game and improve protection against hackers and nefarious or negligent employees. Most of the well-known services are reliable and safe at least for the current known threats. Having said that, I would hesitate to trust my most confidential data to any Internet service. No Internet computer system is 100% protected or foolproof.

Another issue is the slowness of the Internet--even at high speeds. If you have a substantial amount of data on your computer, it could take an unreasonably long time to upload and download your data when changing computers.

Next is the cost of Cloud storage. Most services offer some free storage (five gigs is the average), after that you will encounter a monthly fee. Unless you're only using it for a short period of time, those fees will pile up. I don't know about you, but five gigs don't scratch the surface of the amount of data I have on my computers. Photos and videos add up quickly.

My recommendation for transferring data to a new computer is a USB Hard Drive. For about \$90 you can pick up a one terabyte drive which will both backup your current computer system and act as a data transfer drive when using a program such as Windows Easy Transfer. In the long run an external hard drive will save you money and protect your data from Cloud exposure.

Social Media Basics

Darry D Eggleston, DarryD.com

Connecticut PC Users Newsletter, March 2013

I'm a little distraught at the number of my friends who still do not understand social media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, You-

Tube, & Pinterest) - and I don't blame them. The media leaders have done a poor job of differentiating themselves, so let me see if I can help.

Social media are important to you because they provide the thought-leadership today. If it's important, it's on one of those media. And when it's no longer relevant, all reference to it is gone - like it never existed. Think back to that volunteer organization you belonged to in the last century.

Facebook is like the newsletter with articles posted and 'letters to the editor' gauging responses. Its games can be loosely equated to the crossword puzzles and quizzes such newsletters featured. (Of course, the games on Facebook are much more complicated than the puzzles ever were.) But be aware that Facebook can be a trap because once you get 'into it', you're hooked. Started in 2004, by May 2012, Facebook had , more than half of them using Facebook on a mobile device. The average user spends 405 minutes per month.

Twitter is like the bulletin board where you posted questions, comments, and for sale items. Due to the space limitations, such memos were short. Twitter limits messages to 140 characters (that's not words) or less. says it has 500+ million active users as of 2012, generating over 340 million tweets daily & handling over 1.6 billion search queries per day. The average users spends 89 minutes per month.

YouTube is like the old home movies. Someone was forever trying to get club members to see his vacation film from the visit to Coosa County, Alabama, or points south.

800+ million unique users visit You-Tube each month, watching 3 billion hours of video are watched each month. 72 hours of video are uploaded every minute. 70% of its traffic comes from outside the US. Also, 500 years of YouTube videos are watched every day on Facebook, & over 700 YouTube videos are shared on Twitter each minute.

Pinterest is like the scrapbook some clubs put together where members would include things that they wanted to remember about that club or its environment. "Pinterest users can upload, save, sort and manage images, known as pins, and other media content (i.e. videos) through collections known as pinboards. They are generally themed so that pins can easily be organized, categorized and discovered by other users." In January 2012, 11.7 million unique U.S. visitors - but those are not necessarily users. 82% of its users are females with an average visit lasting 16+ minutes. The average user spends 405 minutes per month.

And there must be money in social media sites because Facebook and Google are buying them at an alarming rate.

Still Google+, the latest challenger to Facebook has got a ways to go. It has only 250+ million users, but it was launched in June 2011 so it's not had time to percolate.

New Type of Search Engine Provides More Information With “Mind Mapping”

by Ira Whilsker

as seen in Big Bear Computer Club Bearly Bytes April, 2013

WEBSITES:

<http://www.instagrok.com>

<http://www.instagrok.com/brochure.pdf> (Brochure in PDF format)

<https://www.techsupportalert.com/content/amazing-site-gets-you-speed-any-subject.htm>

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/grok>

We are all aware of several of the major search engines including Google, Yahoo!, and Bing. These search engines, along with most of their other competitors, use a linear type of search results. With these search engines, the user simply types a search term, which promptly displays a linear listing of results, with little indication of how those results displayed are connected to each other. Many of the displayed results on these traditional search engines are not necessarily the “best” results for the user’s inquiry, as there are a variety of “SEO” or “Search Engine Optimization” tools and utilities designed to influence the search engines to manipulate the displayed results. The websites that used “SEO” appear higher up on the list than those that did not, an important and valuable consideration because most users do not scroll past the first few results that are displayed. Since the search engine results are manipulated, those websites displayed towards the top of the listings may not necessarily be the most relevant for the intended search.

Many consumers of search engine services are very visual, in that they may better comprehend data and information if presented in a logical graphic format showing interactions and relationships; a new search engine service instaGrok does precisely that. By entering a search term in the search box at the top of the page, www.instagrok.com displays a graphical representation of the search results, clearly showing the relationships between the results, allowing the user to better find the results that he is seeking. According to the instaGrok website, “instaGrok presents each topic as an interactive visual interface, allowing the user to quickly grasp important concepts, key facts and relationships.” The term “grok” may appear to be some onomatopoeia from “Star Trek”, but it actually has a definition, according to the instaGrok website, “grok (v): to understand thoroughly and intuitively”.

Unlike the more traditional search engines, instaGrok filters the results based on a selectable “Difficulty Level” slider on the top of the results page which coincides with the academic level of the user, ranging from a basic elementary school level (left on the slider bar), to a high school level (middle), to a college or professional level of content (slider to the right). Graphically, this slider displays an “ABC’s blackboard” to an Einstein caricature, to indicate the level of the display.

instaGrok sees itself as both a search engine and an educational tool, with features beneficial to individuals at all levels as well as features geared to classroom and academic use. The educational utilization of instaGrok is embedded on the mission statement, “Our mission is to help everyone discover the joy of learning and empower them to be lifelong learners. So we are dedicated to building innovative technology to enable engaging, safe and personalized learning.

Like the more mainstream search engines, instaGrok can quickly find information on any topic, displaying the search results in real-time. The instaGrok graphical display shows relational results from web pages, images, videos, and forums, but, unlike its competitors, filters out spam, shopping sites, profanity, and pornography.

As an experiment, I entered several search terms into the instaGrok search box to examine the results. I entered “Lamar Institute of Technology”, which promptly displayed a graphical representation of the results, looking somewhat like an atomic structure or solar system; instaGrok calls this a “concept cloud”. In the most basic view (Difficulty Slider to the left), “Lamar Institute of Technology” was in the center or nucleus, and radiating from it were 10 “satellites”, each with terms such as “train”, “review”, “college”, “service”, “program”, and “school.” Clicking on the displayed term “train” opened a subset indicating some of the programs, costs, scholarship information, and other training information. On the right side of the window are a series of headers displaying key facts, websites, videos, images, and other links. Sliding the “Difficulty Slider” to the center (high school level), and then to the right (academic) displayed a similar number of satellite topics, but with greater detail and complexity as the slider was moved.

Clicking on the “Websites” button on the right side of the page opens a new display in a chart format with the headings “Like”, “Preview”, “Difficulty”, and “Concept Cloud”. In the “Like” column are two small icons, a push pin and a trash can; the push pin icon is to “pin” the results in a registered version (details below), while the trash can might be used to hide that particular selection. The “Preview” column provides a summary of the content included in each website, while the “Difficulty” column utilizes an icon to show the reading level of the particular websites similar to the icons on the “Difficulty Slider”, with an “ABC blackboard” indicating that the website results are appropriate for elementary school level, a graduation cap and diploma indicates high school level content, and Einstein indicates college level content. The “Difficulty Slider” controls the levels of content displayed on this page. The “Concept Cloud” graphically displays how a particular website is linked to other websites.

While the initial search results are displayed graphically, on the top of the graphics display is a “Journal” tag, which when opened, appears to be a word processor like display, with

common word processor controls and features. This journal feature allows the user to compile or report on what is found in the search process. Anyone can use the journal feature, printing or emailing the journal contents, but registration is required in order to save a journal on the instaGrok server.

instaGrok offers four levels of service, two of which are totally free, and two of which are paid and intended for classroom or other academic use. The two free levels of service are “Anonymous” and “Registered” and differ in the number and level of services available. The free Anonymous level is available to everyone, and does not require any registration; instaGrok simply says, “Just use it!”. Anonymous users get the visual (graphical) interface, key facts, websites, quizzes, glossary, videos, and images, and can use the adjustable “Difficulty Slider”. The free “Registered User” level adds the ability to customize and share the graphical concept maps, and save search history and journals. In the headings on the right side of the page is an additional listing for registered users, “My Pins” which stores web links “pinned” (selected) from the websites displayed.

There are two paid versions of instaGrok which are intended for teachers and classroom use at all levels, and these paid versions are each \$35 per calendar year. These paid “Classroom” and “Edmodo” versions add a “Teacher Dashboard”, suppress any advertising (no ads appear on these paid versions), enhanced “safe content” displays, and priority technical support. The “Teacher Dashboard” allows the teacher to monitor the search results and progress of the students, view students’ journals, and evaluate quiz results from the quizzes integrated into the search function and displayed on the right side of any search results. The “Edmodo” level of registration integrates instaGrok into the established and popular Edmodo teacher - student collaboration software already used by many teachers.

instaGrok is an interesting alternative to the more traditional search engines, while it also integrates well into academic environments at all educational levels. The graphical interface takes some minimal experience to become familiar with it, but is easy to master. For those looking for a change from the major search engines, instaGrok is worthy of a try.



How to open files without proprietary software in Windows

by Rob Lightner cnet.com January 20, 2012,
as seen in March 2013 Verde Valley Computer Club

Some file types require proprietary software to open, even for review, while others are simply mysterious to first-time users. Open Freely is a free app that lets users check out many common files, including those associated with Microsoft Windows.

It can be frustrating to receive an attachment or find a file online that you can't open. Maybe you don't have the latest version of MS Office, or maybe you just don't know what program is required. Open Freely is a great, free tool that lets you peek inside many popular file types. Here's how to use it: Download and install Open Freely here. (<http://openfreely.com/>)

When confronted with a file you can't open, launch Open Freely and click the open icon in the top left, then browse and select your file. (You may want to check the list of supported file types here first.) (<http://openfreely.com/formats.html>)

Open Freely offers simple editing tools for documents, spreadsheets, and other such files. These should be familiar to most users. They're not as advanced as those you'd find in Office or similar suites, but they're functional.

It's also easy to print using Open Freely. Just click the printer icon at the top and you're all set.

That's all there is to it. It's easy to enjoy media files or to review documents even on computers that aren't set up to handle the right file type.

Thanks to GHacks (www.ghacks.net/2012/01/15/cant-open-a-file-try-the-se-file-openers) for the link!

VVCC editor's note: Precautions should be taken with all downloads of information.



Webpage Font Size Too Small? -Think about Screen Resolution

Phil Sorrentino, Member, Sarasota PCUG, FL, August 2012 issue, PC Monitor, www.spcug.org, [pcugedit \(at\) verizon.net](mailto:pcugedit@verizon.net)

Anyone who has taken our basic computer classes knows that the font size can be changed just by selecting the appropriate text and then selecting the desired text size, usually from about 8 points to 72 points. And if you were in one of my classes you know that a point is 1/72nd of an inch. That's right; a 72 point selection will print text, on a printer, one inch high. But everything you see on the screen is not as easy to control as the font of the text of a word processing document.

There are, typically, no font size selections on a webpage when you're surfing the web; although you can make some font selections if you are using Internet Explorer. This selection is made by double clicking Tools, then selecting Internet Options. The "fonts" selection is toward the bottom of the window. Here you can select "default" fonts to be used if the webpage does not determine a font. But, practically speaking, you probably will never use these fonts, so don't rush to change these selections. (Other browsers probably have similar selections.) The size of the font that you see on your monitor is determined by settings that are determined by the webpage, and settings on your display graphics adapter. The webpage settings are determined by the webpage designer; the browser just follows the webpage's direction. The display graphics adapter settings are adjustable and are located in the "Display" Control Panel.

In Windows 7, a quick way to get to the Display control panel is to right-click on any empty space on the desktop, select "Personalize", and finally select "Display" (lower left). At this point you can select "Smaller" (the default type size), "Medium", or "Larger". Because these settings depend on the Screen Resolution that is set, if you choose Medium or Larger you may be alerted that "Some items may not fit on your screen if you choose this setting while your display is set to this resolution." So screen resolution is involved in determining the font size and is an important parameter to understand, so that you can make the best choice.

Screen Resolution is generally defined in terms of pixels. A pixel is a picture element. (There is a technical difference between pixels and dots depending on different displays, but for simplicity, for this discussion I am going to use the term dot in the place of pixel.) So Screen Resolution, then, is the number of dots that can be displayed on the screen. It is usually indicated by two numbers, first the horizontal number of dots, followed by the vertical number of dots, for example, 640x480, 800x600, 1024x768, or 1920x1080. (Yes, if you multiply the horizontal and vertical numbers, you get the total number of dots displayed on the screen.) These four resolution settings are also called VGA, SVGA, XGA, and HD-1080. (There are a whole host of screen resolutions that can potentially be used, and are summarized at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Display_resolution. The chart shows the most common display screen resolutions.) The HD-1080 resolution is also the standard used in High Definition Televisions, which is typically referred to as 1080p. So, if you are looking for a display that will show High Definition movies the way they were intended to be shown, make sure your Display Adapter is capable of showing at least 1920x1080.

The Screen Resolution control can be reached easily by right-clicking in any empty space on the desktop, and then selecting "Screen Resolution". (Or by clicking the start button, followed by selecting "Control Panel", followed by selecting "Display", followed by selecting "Adjust resolution" {upper left}.) The current screen resolution is shown as

"Screen Resolution:", in the middle of the Screen Resolution window. The Screen Resolution slider control can be accessed by clicking the downward facing triangle next to the resolution that is currently selected. The Screen Resolution slider controls the resolution of the display and hence the size of text on the screen. The number of selections on this control is determined by your display adapter and your particular monitor. You may have from 2 to many selections. The selections on the slider range from "Low" to "High". (Click on a different resolution on the bar to see a preview of the changed setting in the "Change the appearance of the display" box, (notice how the box representing the screen changes size and shape), then if you like it, click "Apply", if you don't like it try another, or click "Cancel".) Moving towards "High" puts more "dots" on the screen; however, this typically makes the size of objects smaller. Decreasing this setting (moving towards Low) usually makes things larger, but you might start to lose the right side of some web pages. (If you can't easily read the right side of a webpage, you might increase this setting, but things will probably get a little smaller. Try a setting with a few of your favorite web pages and see what setting is the best compromise.)

If you are still wondering what setting to use, click on "What display setting shall I choose?" and you will be treated to a help screen that further discusses screen size and screen resolution with some recommendations for appropriate settings for different display sizes. Note also, that you can easily get to the "Display Font Size" screen (discussed above) by clicking on "Make text and other items smaller or larger".

If you were wondering why the shape of the screen changes with resolution, it is because the resolutions that are supported by the display adapter cover the older 4x3 aspect ratio and the more current 16x9 (wide angle) aspect ratio. The 4x3 aspect ratio is what we inherited from seventy years of analog TV screens. All TV screens, before HD, were built with this aspect ratio. Aspect ratio is typically described by horizontal x vertical. So a 4x3 TV screen has 3 vertical increments for every 4 horizontal increments. (Academic observation for math majors: this always formed a 3x4x5 triangle. A 25 inch TV had a 25 inch diagonal with a 20 inch horizontal and a 15 inch vertical.) The more current 16x9 wide angle aspect ratio screens provide more viewing in the horizontal. For every 3 vertical increments there are 16/3 or 5 1/3 horizontal increments showing a wider angle view.

Screen Resolution is the key to getting a comfortable view of your favorite web pages. If you need to, try some different settings. If you still aren't happy, maybe try another Graphics Adapter, if we're talking about a desktop. If we're talking about a laptop, you're probably going to live with those currently provided. It is just about impossible to change the graphics adapter on a laptop.*

OPERATING SYSTEM NOTES & TIPS

Force Windows 7 to show the DVD icon in the “Computer” window

by Richard Gohman

Verde Valley Computer Club, April 2013

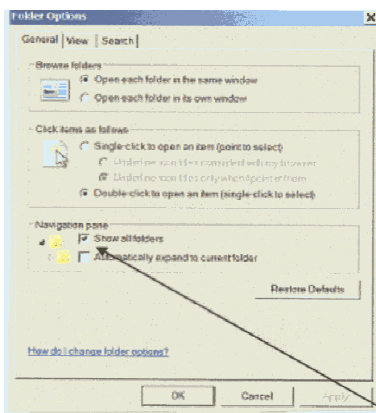
Windows 7 has the initial setup (default) configured to hide drives that are empty when viewing the Computer window. This appears to be by design to keep from confusing novice users who might see a lot of drive letters and icons if the computer is provided with slots for the various camera memory chips.

But this same default hides the CD or DVD drive until a disk is installed. All versions of Windows since version XP have included a burn to CD feature that you activate by dragging a file to the CD/DVD icon in the Computer window. When Windows 7 decided to hide the CD/DVD icon (until you install a blank disk) they made that drag to icon option a more difficult than it had to be.

Note: I worked on one Acer Laptop that had a DVD drive, but the drive did not incorporate the standard hard to use button used to open the drive. You were instructed to go to the Computer window and right-mouse click on the DVD icon and choose eject from the menu to open the drive. However, until you opened the drive and inserted a DVD you did not see a DVD icon. (Nice design goof Acer.) The other option was to

open a paper clip and insert it into the backup release hole to open the drive.

However, you can force Windows 7 to always display the CD/DVD icon in the Computer window with a setting in the Folder Options tool found in the Control Panel. See the figure on the left.



Put a check in the box marked Show all Folders and your CD/DVD drive should now show, even if you do not have a disk in the drive.

More People Miss the Old Windows Start Menu Than Microsoft Would Like to Say

by Rebecca Greenfield | The Atlantic Wire - Wed, Jan 16, 2013

A good chunk of the brave users who upgraded to Microsoft's new Windows 8 experience since November miss the Start Menu, with 1.5 million having now downloaded Pokki, just one of the many Start Menu replacements out there. And that may be a lot bigger chunk than Microsoft will let on. That's up from half a million just a month ago, before the holiday season, when presumably a lot of people got new Windows 8-compatible devices. Of course, Pokki offers just one of the many Start Menu supplements for Windows 8. Just yesterday, one mournful Windows user, Ars Technica's Peter Bright, outlined four other ways to make Windows look more like it used to. Just as early adopters warned, Windows 8 without Start is confusing. So confusing that people have gone out of their way to bring it back.

While those 1.5 million Pokki downloaders might not sound like a lot in comparison to the supposed 60 million Windows 8 licenses that Microsoft claims to have sold as of last week, the Start Menu substitutes actually constitutes a bigger slice of Windows 8 users, because total licenses don't represent total users. The "licenses sold" figure also includes licenses bought by computer manufacturers for machines that have not yet been purchased. PC sales this holiday season dropped 4.9 percent from last year, in part because of Windows 8 and its confusing Start-less interface, according to Gartner. So, there are far fewer than 60 million Windows 8 users out there.

Microsoft doesn't make finding actual user numbers easy. Ballmer claimed 4 million people had upgraded to the new operating system, three days after launch. And then we have all the people who bought new machines. A bunch of PC makers told Wired's Alexandra Chang they are "almost" meeting expectations. Analysts put Surface tablet sales at around 1 million, reports The New York Times' Brian X. Chen. So, there are probably 10's of millions of Windows 8 users. Just not 60 million. Millions of people miss the Start menu enough to have taken the time and done something about it. And then let's not forget all the lazy people who just complain about the void on the Internet.

Windows 8: How to Disable Secure Boot

From Infopackets.com by Brandon Dimmel on 20130205

As seen in UCHUG DRIVE LIGHT, February 2013

We recently received this letter from an Infopackets fan in Arizona:

“Hi Infopackets squad,

I'm interested in downgrading my new PC from Windows 8 Pro to Windows 7. I know that in order to do that, I need to

disable something called Secure Boot. What is Secure Boot, and how do I disable it?

My response:

Great question, Gail. We'll be running a feature story soon giving you more information about how to downgrade from Windows 8 to Windows 7. However, in this article we'll be focusing exclusively on the Secure Boot feature.

Secure Boot Protects Systems from Malware

Secure Boot is a feature in Windows 8's Unified Extensible Firmware Interface, or UEFI. It's there to ensure that all operating systems running on a computer are digitally signed, meaning they are legitimate and not affected by malware.

In other words, Secure Boot is a security feature designed to keep your PC safe from malware attack. However, you can't go about downgrading a Windows 8 system to Windows 7 without disabling Secure Boot.

How to Disable Secure Boot in Windows 8

To do that, boot your Windows 8 computer to the main screen. Next, search for an application known as 'Powershell.'

Once Powershell opens, type in the command: 'confirm-SecureBootUEFI' (no quotations). Then hit enter.

You will then be presented with several pieces of system information. If that data indicates that Secure Boot is installed on your system, you will need to disable Secure Boot in your PC's BIOS. Let's do that now.

Next, go into Windows 8's 'Charms' menu and enter 'Settings'. Then click 'Change PC Settings' and then 'General'. On the next screen, scroll to the very bottom and click 'Restart Now' under the 'Advanced Startup' tab.

On the next screen, click 'Troubleshoot'. On the following screen, click 'Advanced Options'.

Once you've reached the 'Advanced Options' screen, look for a 'UEFI Firmware Settings' option. If it's there, you can click and disable it.

(Note that this option will only appear if you have Secure Boot enabled. If it's already disabled, then you're way ahead of the game!)

From there, you'll put your Windows 7 installation CD into your computer's DVD drive and restart the computer. You'll then initiate the Windows 7 installation process, which we'll be covering in an upcoming article.

Using the command prompt to reveal hidden files

By Bill Sheff, , Lehigh Valley Computer Group, PA
www.lvcg.org - nsheff (at) aol.com

Some viruses leave behind nasty side effects, even when your antivirus program has cleaned the actual virus from your computer. If your desktop icons are missing and your C: drive appears blank, don't panic; your files haven't gone permanently AWOL.

Common viruses, such as the Windows 7 Recovery virus, will hide your files in an attempt to coerce you into paying for the virus's removal. When you view your desktop or click on your C: drive, it may appear that all of your files have been deleted, but they haven't.

If this happens to you here is how to restore them. Click the Start button in the lower left corner of your taskbar. Type cmd in the search box at the bottom of the menu and press Enter.

If you're using Windows XP, click Run and type cmd into the Run box.

Type `attrib -s -h -r c:/*.* /s /d` and press Enter to execute the command.

Allow the command to finish executing (it may take a few minutes). When it's done, close the command prompt window and check your desktop - your files, hidden by the virus, have been restored.

You can use the same trick to restore files the virus may have hidden on other drives, including removable storage such as flash drives and external hard drives; just change the drive letter (c:) in the command above to the drive letter of the storage device with the hidden files.

This excerpt from a larger tips article originally appeared in the January 2013 issue of The LVCG Journal.



Dealing with files that suddenly are hidden

Q&As by users of the BCUG BBS service listed in article www.bcug.com, log into members-only section, enter BBS

Mary Byrne <mrbyrne [at] monmouth.com>
wrote:

About a week ago I noticed file extensions were not showing up in Internet Explorer. No problem. I assumed some MS update had made them not show. But today I noticed two directories missing from my C drive. I went to my backup drive to restore one and got the message "The directory exists". And sure enough, it's there. Now it shows in Explorer, but still not in IE.

Also, it does not show in Front Page when I want to edit a file in that directory. Huh?

Fred Kagel <fkagel [at] optonline.net> replied:

In my 2002 Frontpage:

Tools > Web Settings > Advanced Enable in check box: Show Hidden Files and Folders.

I believe also, if a file/folder name is preceded with an underscore in FP, it will not display. There may be other symbols that cause this. In IE, you might have to go the command line and change to the directory in question: CD\path\directory

You should be able to get to a directory even if it's hidden, but if you go up a level, try dir *. vs. dir */a
ATTRIB *.* -s/ -h / -r Should now display system, hidden and readonly
ATTRIB /? for syntax help.

See, Bruce F, you're not the only command line junkie.

Mary Byrne <mrbyrne [at] monmouth.com> replied:

Thanks Fred. I've got them showing again.

Fred Kagel replied to Mary Byrne:

You're welcomed. It wouldn't hurt to run a scan also with Malware Anti-malware Bytes, since I gather you don't know what caused these files to become hidden all of a sudden. "But today I noticed two directories missing from my C drive."

HARDWARE NOTES & TIPS

Good Enough

Terry Currier, President, WINNERS - WINdows usERS, CA
Newsletter: The Notepad (www.windowsusers.org)
winnersug (at) aol.com

I have an iPad and it's great to help keep the grandkids' interest when we go out to eat, or on long drives in the car. But, for long trips such as when we go to San Diego's Sea World I really did not want to take it. It is big to carry and there is the danger of breakage with such trips. So I have been looking at some of the smaller (and cheaper) tablets. I basically just wanted something I could put some movies on for them and a few games would also help. I saw what I thought would be just right from Buy.com -- a 7" AGPTEK TP10A for \$84. It had the Android 4.0 operating system. The processing speed I knew would not be fast, but it could take a micro-SD card up to 32GB. With that I could put lots of movies and kids TV shows on it.

So I brought it and have been pretty happy with it so far. I made having this tablet into a show and tell by asking members to bring their tablets for the September meeting. I got to see

the Google's Nexus 7" tablet and the Asus with keyboard set up, and one other.

Some of the other things about mine - 1080P HD high definition video display, support for AVI, WMV, MP4, MKV, RM, RMVB, FLV, MOV, and 3GP. It even has HDMI output ability. I brought an HDMI mini cable, hooked it up, and son-of-a-gun it looked great on a 24" TV.

There is not a lot of volume coming from the little speaker in the back so I bought a portable speaker that plugs into the headphone port. It works well and, of course, the tablet can play the usual music formats. With one front 0.3 Mega pixel camera and MIC you can make video calls.

It's listed as having 8GB, but I did look before buying it and knew it would only have about 512MB of free space with the operating system and apps they put on it. First thing of course was to get Angry Birds on it. The grandson loves it.

There is Wi-Fi built-in it, and I've always said the iPad's Wi-Fi is not very good. I took it to a restaurant with free Wi-Fi and the iPad found three available connections. The AGPTEK found eight, including the coffee house across the street.

Remember the low cost of \$84. I brought the warranty (it will cover me when I take it on trips) for \$13, the Micro-SD card cost \$28, a holder cost \$30 (a very good padded one), the speaker \$9, and finally a HDMI cable was \$9. So I've doubled the initial cost, but it is still far cheaper than other tablets, and it suits my needs. And, most important, the grandkids love it!

This article was obtained with permission to reprint by non-profit or other user groups, with credit given to the author, the publication and the user group.

Control Panel Gives Us Control Over Mice

By Jim Thornton

jaxthorn@gmail.com, April 2013 The Outer Edge

Have you optimized the way your mouse works?

Let's review the optional mouse settings on your computer. Click on your Start button, and on the right side of the displayed Start screen, click on Control Panel. On the displayed Control Panel screen, click on Mouse or, if it isn't shown, click first on Hardware and Sound and then on the new display, click on Mouse. Now displayed are many of your mouse options with tabs titled Buttons, Pointers, Pointer Options, Scrolling, Hardware, and Activities. If you are using a different version of Windows, the tab options will be Buttons, Pointers, Pointer Options, Wheel, and Hardware.

On the Buttons tab, you have four choices to improve the performance of your mouse: Left button, Right button, Wheel button, and Magnify button, and on each button, you have 30 or more choices to select from. You will need to identify your

mouse by its name and model number, and this information is usually found on the underside of the mouse. Again you will have more than 30 mouse names to select choices from.

On the Pointers tab, the choices are to select the appearance of your mouse pointer, and you will have more than 10 choices to choose from.

On the Pointer Options tab, the choices are to select the pointer speed, to automatically move to pointer, to display the pointer trail, to hide the pointer while typing, and to show the location of the pointer.

On the Scrolling tab, the options are to select the pointer speed both vertically and horizontally.

On the Hardware tab, the name and model number of your mouse is provided.

And on the final tab, Activities, you can test the speed of your Double-clicking a folder and to set ways to highlight or drag the pointer without holding the button down.

If you are left handed, you may want to use your mouse on the left side of your keyboard and reverse the primary (clicking) and secondary (display) buttons on your mouse.

It is always important that you have installed the device drivers for your mouse. To view your mouse drivers, click on your Start button, and on the right side of the displayed Start screen click on Control Panel. Once the Control Panel opens, click on Mouse, and on the Hardware tab, click on Properties. Once the Mouse Properties dialog box appears, click on the Driver tab. When all of the buttons appear, you can view the driver details, update drivers, roll back to an earlier version of the drivers, or even uninstall drivers.

With your mouse you can select which monitor to use when you have two monitors connected to your desktop computer.

I have a Microsoft Comfort Optical Mouse 3000 that I have been using for over 10 years and on four desktop computers. The mouse has three buttons and one wheel. I have it plugged into my keyboard, a Microsoft Internet Keyboard Pro. The third key on my mouse is configured as a magnifier, which is a very nice feature.

In addition, I did another mouse article that was published in the August 2000 issue of the TOE that described the features of my mouse.

Currently, the popular mice manufacturers are Cyborg, HP, Logitech, Microsoft, and Razer. The popular high performance mouse is the Logitech at \$73-120. The popular gaming mice are the Cyborg at \$158-206 and the Logitech at \$65-112. The popular regular mice are the Microsoft at \$25-60, the Logitech at \$30-74, and the Razor at \$90-137. The popular wireless mice are the HP at \$19-24 and Microsoft \$35.

Lessons Learned from Hurricane Sandy: Don't rush to update

by Cass Lewart rlewart (at) monmouth.com
as seen in January 2013 issue of BCUG Bytes
Brookdale Computer User Group

We were spared from the major brunt of the hurricane. No tree fell on our house, and no water entered our basement. Still, we lost power for ten days. Our heating system, as well as lights, refrigerator, and freezer did not work. We had to throw out some meat from the freezer that was partially reimbursed by our Homeowners' insurance. Fortunately, our hot-water heater, installed about five years ago, uses a pilot, rather than the electronic ignition found in all new hot-water heaters.

Over the last month, I received many calls from our telephone company trying to convince me to switch to the supposedly superior fiber optic system (FIOS). I refused to switch, and kept our copper land line. The result was that during the ten-day power failure, we had our land line service most of the time.

Our cell phone quit for the first few days because of nonworking cell towers. We had some heat in the kitchen, as the gas stove could be lit, so two of the gas burners heated the room (we didn't worry about carbon monoxide).

What is the moral of this story? The latest is not necessarily the best. People who had recently installed hot-water heaters, had no hot water during the power failure. Those who switched to FIOS or to cable for their telephone service, lost their service after a few hours, when the backup batteries quit. In other words, think twice before updating from your reliable hardware and software to the latest and greatest.



Help Lines

HARDWAREHELP	AdvisorNo.
Reformat Hard Disk, FDISK	2, 4, 5
Install Hard Drive, CD-ROM/RW	2, 4, 5
Install Video Card	7
Partitioning Hard Drives	2
Internet/Intranet	6, 7
Audio Cards	4
MPs Files, WMA Files, WAV Files	3, 4
Burning CD's	3, 5
Homesite	7
Net Objects	7

SOFTWAREHELP	AdvisorNo.
Win 95/98/ME/2K/NT/XP	2, 3, 4, 7
Win 7	4, 7
Microsoft Word	2, 7
Microsoft Excel	4
Microsoft PowerPoint	4
WordPerfect	1, 7
Norton/Symantec AntiVirus	2, 3, 6, 7
Norton System Works	2, 7
CompuPic / CompuPic Pro	3, 7
Winzip, WinRAR	6
Ccleaner	3, 4
Outlook, Outlook Express	2
Internet Explorer	2, 7
RegSeeker	3, 5
Instant Messaging	2
Installing Software after Reformatting	5
Deleting Files; Wiping	6

ADVISORS

Name	Phone	Hours
[1] Fred Shelton	(253)752-0120	Variable
[2] Bob Henkel	(253)537-6732	8A-8P any day
[3] Tom Stepanek	(253)922-7939	7-9P Mon-Fri
[4] Carl Tenning	(206)824-3843	6-9P Mon-Fri
[5] Oclad Wesley	(253)212-0352	6-9P
[6] Bob Thomson	(253)752-5582	Variable
[7] Ray Mills	(360)692-7568	6-9P Mon-Sat

Tacoma Open Group for Microcomputers (TOG)

New Member Application/Existing Member Change of Address Form

For **Tacoma Open Group** annual membership, send form (if needed) & **\$25** to Bob Henkel., 10613 25th Avenue E., Tacoma, WA 98445.
 Make checks payable to TOG

Please print or type. Date: _____ Sponsored by: _____

Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____ Plus Four _____ Country: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work phone: (____) _____ E-Mail Address _____

TACOMA MEETING

When: **13 May 2013 -7:00 PM**
Where: SE Tacoma Community Centre
1614 99th Street E.
Tacoma, Washington

From I-5 take Exit 127 (Hwy 512) to
Portland Ave., north on Portland to 99th,
left over tracks. Building is on south side.

Future Dates: 2nd Monday of Month

TOG BOARD MEMBERS

President Carl Tenning (206)824-3843
& S. King County Rep c10ing@hotmail.com
web page: http://carlten.net.html
VP/Prog Chair Vacant
Sec/Treas Bob Henkel (253) 537-6732
bobh@netventure.com
Disk Library Tom Stepanek (253) 922-7939
tomstep116@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor Bob Thomson (253) 752-5582
rjthomson@comcast.net
Kitsap County Rep Ray Mills (360) 692-7568
e-mail: r.mills@rm-a.com
web page: http://www.rm-a.com

TOG Web Site: <http://www.toggle.org>

Deadline: 15th of this month to appear
in next months' issue, if room

Corporate Sponsors:

Raymond Mills & Associates
www.rm-a.com

How To get To The Meeting

For those readers still unfamiliar with
how to find our meeting place we have
reproduced the map showing its rela-
tionship in Tacoma to Portland Ave S.
and the 512 Freeway. The 512 Freeway
can be entered from I-5 in Tacoma on
the west or from Hwy 167 in Puyallup on
the east. Proceed to Portland off-ramp
and turn north to 99th Street. Some
folks in the middle of Tacoma may pre-
fer to take Portland southbound to 99th.
At 99th turn west over the tracks and
there you are!



TOGGLE

Tacoma OPEN Group for Micros
1808 Lenore Drive
Tacoma, WA 98406-1920

Change Service Requested

PROGRAMS

This Month's Meeting

This will be a regular monthly meet-
ing. Meeting discussions are always
interesting and the ever-popular Q&A
(Question & Answer) period is sure to
pique your interest, come up to your
expectations and tickle your fancy.
Come and share your own experiences,
problems and discoveries.

Program Presentation

No Program Presentation has been
announced at press time. However,
lively discussions of current problems
and discoveries always seem to arise.
Bring your problems and discoveries
for discussion. They will be welcome.