

Boca Bits

Monthly Magazine of The Boca Raton Computer Society, Inc.



VISIT YOUR WEB SITE AT
WWW.BRCS.ORG

Volume 18, Number 12

December 2010

Next General Meeting Wednesday, December 15, 2010 @ 7:30 PM - Q & A Starting @ 6:15 PM



LastPass Password Storage System In The Cloud

**By Jerry Naditch
BRCS Vice-President**

Jerry Naditch, BRCS's Vice-President will discuss LastPass: a password manager that makes web browsing easier and more secure.

First, he'll tell you why you want and need to protect your online identity. Then, he'll describe LastPass, which is not a separate program, per se, but is integrated into your web browsers.

LastPass, which is free, will greatly enhance your web browsing experience when going to sites that require user names and passwords.

December 15, 2010 Door Prize

The December door prize, for members in good standing, will be a Toshiba XP Laptop..

Inside This Issue

- 3 MEMBERSHIP NEWS
- 4 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 6 IT'S CRYSTAL BALL TIME AGAIN
- 7 TIPS SYNDICATED FROM SHARON PARQ ASSOCIATES
- 8 HASTA LA VISTA
- 10 EDITOR'S NOTE
- 11 *IS THIS THING ON?* – BOOK REVIEW
- 12 THE SEVENTH SON OF WINDOWS
- 13 CHAPTER NEWS
PDF FILES IN ITUNES - FOR SYNCING ON APPLE DEVICES
- 15 SIG NEWS
- 16 HELP LINE
- 17 SIG INFORMATION
- 18 ACTIVITIES CALENDARS
- 19 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



**BOCA RATON
COMPUTER SOCIETY, INC**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President

Steve Costello
954-978-9010 president@brcs.org

Vice President

Jerry Naditch
561-865-1253 gnaditch@brcs.org

Treasurer

Sherman C. Potter
561-495-6797 shermp@brcs.org

Secretary

Larry Jablon
561 368-8028 ljablon@juno.com

DIRECTORS

Jerry Bartzoff
561-499-5150 jbartzoff@brcs.org

Richard Brenner
561-742-3234 members@brcs.org

Jerry Dinerman
gerald@dinerman.com

Greg Glenn
561-395-3316 glennnga@cs.com

Richard Miller
561-393-5813 RMiller@genesis-one.com

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Gleneagles
Jerry Bartzoff
561-499-5150 jbartzoff@brcs.org

Huntington Lakes
Lou Strumlauf
561-495-1476 lstrumlauf@comcast.net

Century Village West
Bernie Semell
561-451-1371

Kings Point
Jerry Frank
jerryphylisf@comcast.net

Cascade Lakes
George Brucks
Milte Sherman

FACILITIES

Facilities Coordinator
Vacant

Help-Line Coordinator
Larry Jablon
561 368-8028 ljablon@juno.com

Web Master
Jerry Naditch
gnaditch@brcs.org

Web Master Assistants
Stanley Warshaw Jerry Bartzoff

Membership Coordinator
Richard Brenner
561-742-3234 members@brcs.org

Membership Assistant
Riki Chicofsky
561-499-9310 chicofsky@gmail.com

Boca Bits Editor
Steve Costello editor@brcs.org

Public Relations
Vacant

SIG Coordinator
Vacant

Gen'l Meeting Coord.
Marty Greenlinger
561-638-5483 marty897@yahoo.com

Program Coordinator
Vacant

Boca Bits is published monthly by the Boca Raton Computer Society, Inc. (BRCS) 5030 Champion Blvd., G-6 #202, Boca Raton, FL 33496-2473. The BRCS is an independent, not-for-profit user group and is not affiliated in any way with any vendor or equipment manufacturer.

No warranty, expressed or implied, is made by the Boca Raton Computer Society, the *Boca Bits* editorial staff, or the individual authors or contributors. This disclaimer extends to all losses, incidental or consequential, from the use or inability to use any and all information in any issue of this publication. Unless specifically stated otherwise, the opinions expressed in any article or column are those of the individual author(s) and do not represent an official position of, or endorsement by, the Boca Raton Computer Society.

Advertising appears in *Boca Bits* as prepared by individual advertisers. The Boca Raton Computer Society does not endorse the products, services, or companies so advertised.

Copyright © 2010 by the Boca Raton Computer Society. All rights reserved. Articles without additional copyright notices may be reprinted in whole or in part by other non-profit computer user groups for internal, non-profit use, provided credit is given to *Boca Bits* and to the authors of the reproduced material. All other reproduction without the prior written permission of the Boca Raton Computer Society is prohibited.

Submission Format

Any word processor or text editor capable of producing straight ASCII text files may be used to write your article. *We'll make it as easy as possible for you, just don't do any formatting like use of the Tab key, Italics, Bold, etc.* Use the Enter key on your keyboard just to separate paragraphs. If you would like to include your formatting, please send a second file that can be used as a reference. Include your name and telephone number so we can contact you if we have questions.

Transmission: Please send your article, or advertising copy, by email to editor@brcs.org, or via postal mail to: BRCS 5030 Champion Blvd., G-6 #202, Boca Raton, FL 33496-2473, Attention: Editor.

Deadline: Deadline for each issue is 12:00 p.m. on the Saturday following the General Meeting.

Advertising Rates

Ad copy would be preferred in either Microsoft Publisher format, or in scannable camera-ready copy. Business cards, line art, or halftone/line art combination original art is acceptable.

Rates are for CAMERA-READY COPY and must be pre-paid.

Non-commercial classified ads for computer-related merchandise are published, subject to space availability, at no charge to Boca Raton Computer Society members.

Size of Ad	Number of Issues			
	1	3	6	12
Full Page (7 x 9.25")	\$90	\$250	\$475	\$900
Half Page (7 x 4.25")	\$60	\$150	\$260	\$500
Quarter Page (3.4 x 4.25")	\$40	\$100	\$200	\$360
Tall Business Card (3.4 x 3.4")	\$30	\$75	\$145	\$240
Business Card (3.4 x 2")	\$20	\$50	\$90	\$160

Boca Bits Staff

EDITOR

Steve Costello editor@brcs.org

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Lee Reynolds leetutor@exploringwindows.com
Sharon Parq Assoc. www.sharonparq.com
Ira Wilsker iwilsker@sbcglobal.net
Elizabeth B Wright wright599new(at)sbcglobal.net
Beth Pickering Bethpick (at) emailx.net
Ernie Cox, Jr. ecoxjr (at) cox.net

GRAPHICS EDITOR

Jerry Dinerman gerald@dinerman.com

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

Vacant

PROOFREADERS

Jerry Bartzoff jbartzoff@brcs.org

BRCS Presidents

Wyatt Bell	07/1983 - 01/1984	Richard Miller	01/1999 - 01/2000
Richard V. Sandell	01/1984 - 01/1987	Larry French	01/2000 - 01/2001
Mark Lautenschlager	01/1987 - 01/1990	Bob Hirshan	01/2001 - 02/2001
Wayne S. Ackley	01/1990 - 05/1990	Larry French (Acting Pres)	02/2001 - 01/2002
Norman D. Olson	05/1990 - 01/1992	Oscar Segal	01/2002 - 01/2006
Bob Hubbell	01/1992 - 01/1993	Bob Balogh	01/2006 - 01/2009
Glenn Stocking	01/1993 - 01/1995	Steve Costello	01/2009 - Present
Richard Miller	01/1995 - 01/1997		
Mel Macy	01/1997 - 01/1999		

Membership News & Views

New Members

October / November 2010

Muriel Arnold	Fred Greenberg
Benjamin Berges	Bob Herman
Ed Bernard	Frances Holden
Evelyn Brodtkin	Alan Pastor
Torrey Everett	Charles Williams

Membership Renewals

October / November 2010

Renee Abrams	Neal Keller
Rudi Aschenbrand	John Kulick
Margaret Barta	Henry Kurlansik
Sid Beinfest	Ken Lassiter
Will Boltin	Dennis Lucey
George Brucks	Paul Merlin
Marvin Buchalter	Arthur Oluwek
Ted Bullock	Philip Pantano
Alan Carpenter	Gene & Leona Paw- lowski
Albert Cataldi	M.C. Portnick
Jerome Catz	Jeff Robins
Paul Davis	Stanley Roth
Robert Dobski	Danuta Sagnard
Jeannette Dominique	Walter Schaffer
Max Enos	Alan Schildkraut
Olie Fernald	Myron Slotsky
Jacqueline Fineblit	Marcel Spiegler
Robert Fox	Harvey & Myrna Springel
Marvyn Garber	Kurt Weiss
Neil Garfield	Tobie Widis
Marty Greenlinger	Irene & Stanley Zimmer- man
Cheryl Handler	
Alan Kaitz	

Expired Memberships

As of November 2010

Raymond Berlin	John W Lange
Evelyn Chernetz	Stewart Rahr
Martin Harris	Marvin Silveston

Expired Memberships

As of December 2010

(May not reflect renewals received after Nov. 17, 2010)

Philip Ansted	Joshua & Harriet Kalin
Nicolas Arena	Elaine Pare
Walter Bayer	Sherman Pessin
Joseph Bendersky	Martin Shack
Victor Blumenthal	Robert Tanzer
Alfred Eriv	Martin Weinberg
William Fingerett	Joel Whitman
Milton M Ganberg	Isabel Yarnall
A J Hendler	Judith Yellen

Expiring Memberships

As of December 2010

Barbara Barron	Joseph Lappen
Gene Bass	George Leavitt
Abraham Berman	Al Levy
Frank Bonano	Robert Markowitz
Joseph Boscove	Nathan Maryn
Roz Bouley	M. Vasiliades & Debra McNerney
Richard Brenner	Robert F. Montague
Irving Chandler	Ira Namanowich
Faith Copeland	Carol Raspler
John & Peg DeMeritt	Zelman Schoenbart
Lawrence Ferri	Bernard Shapiro
Bernard Furman	Irving Shatz
Ken Grutza	Milton Sherman
Gerald Harrison	David Silverstein
Howard Hoffmann	Robert Smith
Warren Holtzman	Norman Stern
Larry Jablon	Florence Tonelson
Judith & Bernard Karver	Arthur L. Walter
Annette Katz	Stanley Warshaw
Ira Keller	Oscar Young

See Page 5 for more Membership News & Views



Steve Costello

Boca Raton Computer Society President's Message

By Steve Costello, President, BRCS

Communications from the President of Boca Raton Computer Society, regarding important issues and information.

We had another great general meeting in November. Congratulations to our door prize winners (see the brcs.org site, or page 5 of this newsletter).

Paul Nappo gave the main presentation on the subject of backing up your computer.

Upcoming Election The Board of Directors

It is that time again, a Nominating Committee has been selected, as the Board of Directors will have to be elected at the January 2011 annual meeting.

At this time, the current members of the Board will be standing for re-election, with the exception of Jerry Bartzoff. Jerry will still be around but, has decided to leave the Board

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board, contact the committee. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor, at the annual meeting.

January 19, 2011 Presentation

Joseph R. Scondotto, Assistant Vice President/ Store Manager, of TD Bank will be giving a presentation, and demo, of online banking to the BRCS members. (See his bio on page 8 of this newsletter.)

More information will be coming in the January, 2011, edition of *Boca Bits*.

This should prove to be a very interesting general meeting presentation, and it is something that has been requested repeatedly in the past.

Thank you Greg Glenn for taking the time to set this up for us.

Volunteer Positions

We can always use volunteers to help out. You do not have to be a board member to volunteer.

SOME OF THE OPEN POSITIONS

Program Coordinator
Public Relations
Facilities Coordinator
SIG Coordinator
Assistant Editor

There are many more than these that are not formally named, and any assistance is appreciated. Remember this is your organization, not that of the Board, and we can not continue to provide what you are looking for without help.

Contact myself or any of the other Board members, if interested in helping out.

General Meeting Presentations

A lot of you belong to user groups within your community, or other user groups, as well as belonging to BRCS.

If you saw a great presentation at your community, or group, that you think would be of interest to others in BRCS, please contact the Board and provide the contact information, so that others can take advantage of the opportunity of seeing the presentation.

Once again, this is your organization, help us provide quality information.

Steve Costello
December 2010

More Membership News & Views

November 2010 Door Prize Winners

The door prizes for the November general meeting consisted of a netbook and one of Richard Miller's famous *brown bags*. The lucky winners were Stanley (Stan) Roth for the netbook, and Arthur Walter for the *brown bag*, which turned out to be a USB Card Reader.

Congratulations to them both, photos of them accepting their prizes are shown below, with the prize winners on the left and BRCS President Steve Costello on the right.



HP Netbook Winner — Stanly (Stan) Roth



Brown Bag (USB Card Reader) Winner — Arthur Walter

December 15, 2010 Door Prize

The main door prize for the December 2010 general meeting will be an XP Toshiba Laptop, for a lucky BRCS Member, in good standing.



It is always possible that there will be one of Richard Miller's famous *brown bag* prizes as well.

It's Crystal Ball Time Again

By Elizabeth B. Wright, Member, Computer Club of Oklahoma City

October 2010 issue, CCOKC eMonitor

www.ccok.org

[wright599new\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:wright599new@sbcglobal.net)

Introduction

Is it any wonder no real work gets done any more? Since the advent of the personal computer, the workforce in the world has been in a constant learning mode. Early in the game there were many competing programs to buy. Some had a steep learning curve, others were fairly easy to conquer.

In business, you either got the concept of a spreadsheet or you didn't. One way or the other the number crunching software became a dominant player in the office environment.

The same held true for word processing. Apple had the inside track on graphics, but folks that is also based on numbers whether you can see it or not. Don't be fooled. Computers only do one thing, they turn on and off little switches which make up what you see on your screen. And they do it with two numbers, 0 and 1. Off is 0, On is 1.

Admittedly it is a bit more complicated than that, number combinations which tell the computer what those two switches will turn on or off, but the basis of all computing is number handling.

Software Updates / New Releases

Since the time of the first personal computers, there has hardly been a gap between the last software update and the newest release.

Those developers who had a good product that was supposed to last forever found themselves quickly out of business, buried in the onslaught of Microsoft and IBM sales techniques.

Just as Mt. St. Helens buried a good chunk of real estate, so has Microsoft buried the competition in personal computer software. Funny, both Microsoft and Mt. St. Helens are located in Washington state. Anyway, there seems to be no end to the product finagling designed to make users think they are getting something new.

RETRAINING

But here is the problem. With each new version of both software and operating systems, endless retraining is needed to get the individual or workforce up to speed and to actually be productive.

This provides work for the trainers, but of course the trainees never arrive at the productive stage because there is always a newer incarnation of the same old tired software, requiring the cycle to begin all over again.

For government entities this is no problem since very little beneficial work gets done there anyway. But for other businesses, a thinking person might find it confusing that any corporation, large or small, could be profitable in the above scenario.

I don't know to what extent the business world is resisting the pressure to upgrade and update, but obviously if one large company chooses to do so, many others must follow suit. Monkey see, monkey do.

Computer Use

The day has long passed since the novelty of owning a desktop computer, either in an office or at home, was exciting. Few people have opted to do much more than use email on their home machines.

(Continued on page 9)

Tips Syndicated From Sharon Parq Associates

<http://www.sharonparq.com/>

A little bit about Sharon Parq Associates, directly from their website:

"Sharon Parq Associates (SPA) is a publisher of high-quality information on the Internet. Our flagship site, Tips.Net, provides a gateway to many other sites focused on providing information in a variety of topic areas."

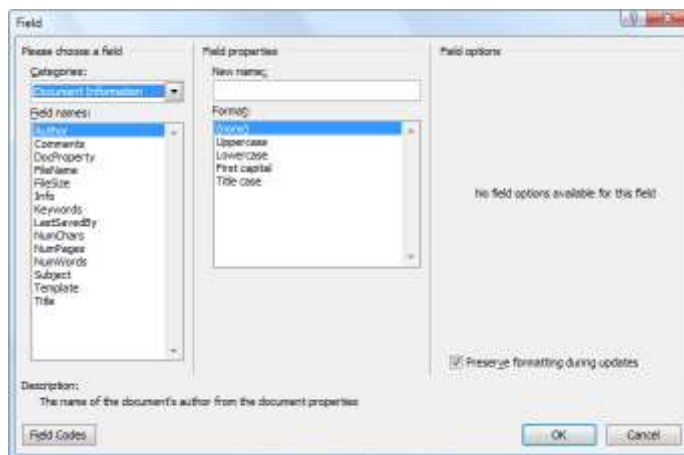
Microsoft Word: Inserting the Template Name in Your Document

Every Word document has a template attached to it. Depending on your version of Word, this template defines things such as your menus, toolbars, macros, and styles (among other things). If you do not explicitly attach a template, then Word uses the Normal template.

The name of the template file attached to your document can be inserted into your document and updated automatically.

To do this, follow these steps:

1. Position the insertion point where you want the template file name to appear.
2. Display the Field dialog box. (In Word 2007 or Word 2010 display the Insert tab of the ribbon and then choose Quick Parts | Fields from the Text group. If you are using an older version of Word, choose Field from the Insert menu.)



The Field dialog box.

3. In the Categories list, choose Document Information.
4. In the Field Names list choose Template.
5. Click on OK to close the dialog box and insert your field.

Copyright © 2010 by Sharon Parq Associates, Inc.
Reprinted by permission. Thousands of free Microsoft Word tips can be found online at <http://word.tips.net>.

Microsoft Excel: Using the CONCATENATE Worksheet Function

Excel provides a function called CONCATENATE which can be used to combine the contents of several cells, or even to combine cell contents with other text. For instance, let's say you wanted to add together the contents of cells A3 and B3, separate them by a space, and have the result appear in cell C3. All you need to do is put the following formula in cell C3:

```
=CONCATENATE(A3," ",B3)
```

Primarily, the CONCATENATE function is used for compatibility with other spreadsheet programs.

You can just as easily use the ampersand (&) operator to combine text values using a formula. For instance, the following is equivalent to the example of CONCATENATE shown above:

```
=A3 & " " & B3
```

Copyright © 2010 by Sharon Parq Associates, Inc.
Reprinted by permission. Thousands of free Microsoft Excel tips can be found online at <http://excel.tips.net>.

Hasta la Vista

Repairing Corrupted Thumbnail Images In Vista

by Lee Reynolds, Member BRCS

I'm told the literal meaning of "hasta la vista" in Spanish is "until the seeing." Or maybe a more adequate translation is "see you later."

But, in this column, I'm using that phrase to invite you to take a look at Microsoft's latest version of Windows: Vista.

Thumbnail images can sometimes get corrupted.

In Windows XP, you needed to delete a hidden file called thumbs.db from the folder in which "thumbnail view" of the images in it was enabled, and then redisplay of the folder with the thumbnail view enabled would regenerate this cache.

In Windows Vista, there is no thumbs.db file; it has been replaced by others. The file has been replaced by a number of "thumbcache_xxxx.db" files which are now located within a user's profile at

```
\Users\\AppData\Local\
Microsoft\Windows\Explorer
```

The "xxxx" in the above file names are digits which seem to correspond to the size of the icons: 32, 96, 256, and 1024 on my system. There is also an index file called thumbcache_idx.db

The folder AppData is a hidden folder and will only be visible in a user's profile if he has turned on the option for Show hidden files and folders on the View tab of Folder Options in Control Panel.

The Disk Cleanup Wizard included with Vista may be used to delete these thumbnails. Then the next time the folder containing the images with thumbnails is opened and viewed, the thumbcache files will be recreated, hopefully without corruption.

There are programs available for viewing the information stored in the Vista thumbcache files, one being called dm Thumbs, which has a Frequently Answered Questions webpage about thumbcache:

http://www.dmthumbs.com/faq_thumbcache.html

* * * * *

Bio of Joseph R. Scondotto, Presenter for January 19, 2011

Joseph R. Scondotto, Assistant Vice President and Store Manager for the Boca Camino office, joined TD Bank in March of 2010. Joseph is responsible for business development, consumer lending, and community relations in the Boca Raton market, as well as the overall supervision and the professional growth of his staff of 9 employees.

He is an active participant in many local charitable organizations including Junior Achievement and the Tri-County Humane Society. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors for Letip's Boca Raton Chapter, a professional networking group.

Joseph has worked in the financial services industry since 1986. Prior to joining TD Bank, he was a branch manager for Regions Bank in Boca Raton.

Joseph has been a resident of Palm Beach County for the past 15 years and currently resides in Delray Beach with his wife Esther. He was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York where he graduated from Xaverian High School. He received a Bachelor's degree from Pace University in Finance. He was employed by Citigroup for 14 years working mostly as a senior financial analyst.

(Crystal Ball Time Again Continued from page 6)

Small offices either had to make do with older software and machines or face non-profitability in the upgrade race. A few have been able to continue business as usual without changing with each new version, but the lack of support for older systems must be placing a heavy burden on such establishments.

Wi-Fi Users

Go to any bookstore or restaurant with wi-fi and you will see many people with their laptops doing what appears to be research, homework or business transactions. Are they upgrading their machines and software at every turn?

These people often take up prime seating (case in point: a booth for four people which becomes a virtual private office) and conduct their affairs via the free internet access. Some even go so far as to talk to what I assume are customers/clients, either by cell phone or phone access via the computer.

Can the restaurants and bookstores make enough money from these customers to continue providing free offices for them?? For the people taking advantage of the free spaces and services, perhaps it's the only way they can make any kind of living. After all, if they had to pay the internet bill themselves or rent office space they almost surely could not be competitive.

While these customers may buy a drink, or possibly even some food, the time they spend taking up space seems unreasonably long to me. But I suppose the business owners know what they are doing. Or do they? On a very recent internet news blurb there was reference to this very problem.

As some of the coffeehouse/ bookstores/ deli cafes face lower profits, will they begin to see this phenomenon as a good thing gone sour?

Back To Upgrades

Back to the subject of endless upgrades, I can understand hardware upgrades. But how can any of this superfluous software revision possibly be good for consumers?

Since the really big companies utilize very specialized software and mainframe hardware which requires a far different kind of tech support, when does the upgrade cycle for the rest of us come to an end?

Conclusion

Are we in the fourth quarter in a tied game, users 0, developers 0?

Laptop computers use the same software as our nearly obsolete desktop systems, so what is the picture?

There is no overtime or sudden death playoff in this game. No winners, only losers.

Some are saying we are at the end of the road for personal computers.

Young people seem to want nothing bigger than something they can hold in their hands.

Or could I be totally wrong? Is there a whole new world of technology about to be opened up to us.

Who will lead the way?

This article has been obtained from Articles2Go with permission to reprint by non-profit, or other user groups with credit given to the author, the publication and the user group. A copy of this newsletter has been sent to the author, or editor.

* * * * *

"There are two ways of constructing a software design; one way is to make it so simple that there are obviously no deficiencies, and the other way is to make it so complicated that there are no obvious deficiencies. The first method is far more difficult. "

C.A.R. (TONY) HOARE, English computer scientist at Oxford.
24NOV10—http://www.giga-usa.com/quotes/authors/c_a_hoare_a001.htm



Editor's Note

By Steve Costello

This is where the editor communicates with you, the reader.

Here you will find information regarding upcoming changes in format and / or content.

I hope you find something of interest to yourself in this issue, and that, if there is something of particular interest you wish to see in a future issue, you contact me, and I will see what I can find for you.

Lee Reynolds Articles

Lee has provided us with the latest installments of *Hasta La Vista* and *The Seventh Son of Windows*.

These should help you to keep up with these latest Windows operating systems.

Sharon Parq Associates Tips

This month the syndication of Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel tips, from Sharon Parq Associates, continues.

The latest set of tips start on page 7 of this issue:

Word - *Inserting the Template Name in Your Document*

Excel - *Using the CONCATENATE Worksheet Function*

If you like these tips and would like to see a lot more similar tips, please check out their <http://www.tips.net/> site. It contains these and many other topics.

Articles2Go

It's Crystal Ball Time Again

Is This Thing On? – Book Review

PDF Files in iTunes - For Syncing on Apple Devices

The above are the titles of articles provided by Judy Taylour, via *Articles2Go*, for reprinting.

SIG News

I have started a place for the SIG leaders to present a little information about their SIG.

This month there is information regarding:

- *Digital Photography*
Moderated by Jerry Dinerman
- *Paint Shop Pro And Then Some*
Moderated by Stan Glazer
- *Windows XP/Vista/Win7*
Moderated by Richard Miller
- *Freeware / Open Source*
Moderated by Steve Costello.
- *Hardware/Software*
Moderated by "Captain Ray" Sollberger

Comments Solicited

I am always trying to find good, relevant, informative content, so need your feedback.

Please send your comments and / or suggestions to:
editor@brcs.org

Please include a subject line, that begins with:
Bits Comment

This will enable me to quickly distinguish it from other emails.



Printing

- Full Service Printing
- High Speed Copying
- Digital Color Copying
- Full Color Printing
- Letterheads, Envelopes, Business Cards, etc.
- Custom Forms
- Carbonless Forms

Mailing Services

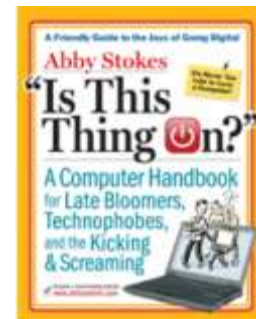
- Direct Mail Addressing
- Bar Coding
- Mailing List Disk Conversion
- Tabbing • Insertion
- Mailing Lists
- Mail Merging
- Full Service Mailing
- Postal Consultation available

2034 N.W. 55th Avenue
Margate, Florida 33063

954-971-2511
Fax: 954-971-2648

***Is This Thing On?* – Book Review**

**By Beth Pickering, President,
Sonoma Valley Computer Group, CA
November 2010 issue SVCUG newsletter
Bethpick (at) emailx.net
www.vom.com/svcg**



Introduction

I finally read one of those books for Dummies (the one for Seniors). Actually I only read parts of it. I definitely have trouble with the title. I know it says a manual for the rest of us - and it definitely reads like a manual - but self talk is important and I'm not a dummy.

It was part of my due diligence for reviewing Abby Stokes' new beginners' book, *Is This Thing On?* There really is no comparison. A manual is a manual.

About *Is This Thing On?*

Abby's book reads like a chat between friends. It is also generic - this helps the how-to instruction teach concepts and builds confidence in venturing into new areas.

Abby also has a website (www.abbyandme.com) that she encourages her readers to use. There are tutorials, practice areas, and website links, as well as part of the first chapter of her book. That Abby has hands on experience in teaching computers to seniors is very evident.

She compares using a computer with using other complex machines (like a car). You don't need to understand how they work to use them. If you know someone who is new to computers, this is the book they need.

There are now three copies in our library system. Sonoma has one and it was checked out within an hour of being placed on one of the new book shelves.

TARGET AUDIENCE

One of the best things about Abby's book *Is This Thing On?* is that she doesn't try to have something for everyone. She has a target audience (adult first-time computer users) and writes for them.

Reading this book felt more like a chat with a friend than an instruction manual.

MS WINDOWS AND MAC

The other thing that sets this book apart is that it is the most generic computer book I have read. Abby gives directions for both Windows and Mac operating systems because the computer you buy will have one or the other. There are pros and cons for both systems.

COMPUTER BUYING ADVICE

Her advice on buying a computer is to try several models with an idea of what you want and a "Test Drive Form" to have filled out on the day(s) you take your test drives. She also suggests you check with your support system. You will get better help if the person you call on a Sunday afternoon has the same operating system.

ADAPTABILITY

Adaptability is a major theme in Abby's book.

To help readers be flexible with what they find, she uses different examples for the same computer task. In each one the steps or sections have the same numbers.

She explains that there are different versions and the reader's computer screen may not look exactly like her examples.

She also makes clear that things on the Internet (i.e. websites or browsers) often look different after they are updated.

VARIETY

Variety is always highlighted.

When discussing the Internet, Abby gives instructions for Firefox, Explorer, and Safari.

(Continued on page 14)

The Seventh Son of Windows Windows Media Player

by Lee Reynolds, Member BRCS

Windows 7 has arrived.

Let's explore the features of this newest incarnation of Microsoft Windows...

Introduction

Windows 7 features a new version of Windows Media Player, version 12, which has a number of improvements over the version 11 available in Windows XP and Windows Vista:

- There is a lightweight version (Now Playing mode vs. Library mode)
- When you right click the Taskbar icon, you get a jump list
- You can add media from your network by clicking Organize -> Manage Library
- Hovering on any song in a playlist allows playing of a 15-second preview of the song
- It supports more media formats, such as AAC audio, and both Xvid and DivX video
- You can stream media to other PCs in your HomeGroup ("play to")
- You can browse iTunes libraries and play most selections (those that are not DRM-protected)



The new version of Windows Media Player completely separates the task of library management from what's currently playing, with two different modes of operation: Now Playing view, and Library view.

Library view contains all the library manipulation features that should be familiar from Windows Media Player 11.

Now Playing view contains the current playlist, visualizations, and videos.



The Jump List will give you a list of frequently or recently played musical pieces or videos, as well as tasks such as: Resume Last Playlist, Play All Music, Unpin this program from Taskbar, and Close Window.



* * * * *

Huntington Lakes Computer Club Lou Strumlauf, President

MEETING OF 11/11/10

A meeting on Veterans Day called for special remembrance, in the form of a giant decorated sheet cake, with flags, and red, white & blue butter cream. How could we possibly have a meeting without honoring our Veterans with a few choice words and a small token of appreciation?

PRESENTATION

George Brucks had been at our club a few years back and he returned to show us how much he has refined his presentation. This time he showed us things on a personal level. A new found relative with a net worth of 6 billion dollars, and an ancestor who was worthy of having her portrait painted by the famous artist John Sargent.

George was well prepared for this demonstration of Genealogy. Prior to the meeting we forwarded the names of over a dozen members to him, including the names of their parents and any other information thought to be helpful. Although none of these names could be located in the research that he did, it gave our members a good overview on how and where to do the research and how to insert information in recommended programs – i.e. “Brother’s Keeper”/

Two handouts, listing the many websites associated with Genealogy, were made available to every member. One was given out at the meeting and the other forwarded to them by Email. Because of George’s layback manner, patience, knowledge of the subject and his dry sense of humor, the presentation was thoroughly enjoyed.

UPCOMING

We are also looking forward to seeing Pamela Tabak at our 12/9 meeting, when she will show us some “Tips and Tricks” which should be enjoyed by a membership with a wide range of skill levels.

Lou Strumlauf, President

www.huntingtonlakescomputer.com

* * * * *

PDF Files in iTunes - For Syncing on Apple Devices

By Ernie Cox, Jr., member of the
Computer Club of Green Valley, AZ
November 2010 issue, Green Bytes
<http://gvcc.apcug.org>
[ecoxjr \(at\) cox.net](mailto:ecoxjr@cox.net)

There is an easy way to get PDF files into iTunes for syncing to your iOS device (iPad, iPhone or iPod Touch).

The iBooks apps can then view the PDF files, as long as you have iTunes 9.2 and iOS 4.

Create an alias of iTunes.app and drag it to your userfolder/Library/PDF Services. (Create the folder if it does not already exist.)

You can rename the alias, iTunes PDF files.

The next time you are viewing a document you would like to read later on your iOS 4 device, go to:

File > Click on Print

Click the PDF Button on the bottom left corner of the Print dialog box,

Choose iTunes from the list.

The iTunes app will then launch and receive the PDF.

The next time you sync your device, the document will be synced as well.

This article has been obtained from Articles2Go with permission to reprint by non-profit, or other user groups with credit given to the author, the publication and the user group. A copy of this newsletter has been sent to the author, or editor.

* * * * *

(Is This Thing On? - Review Continued from page 11)

In email the examples are from Yahoo, Gmail, and AOL. Search engines used are Google, Yahoo, and Ask.

The section on surfing the Internet has examples of different websites for areas like shopping, auctions, travel, and banking.

There are also multiple pictures of hardware such as computers, mouse devices, printers, scanners, cell phones, PDAs and iPhones.

WEBSITE

There is also a hand holding website – www.abbyandme.com - with more information, tutorials, and links.

Throughout the book, Abby encourages her readers to visit her website and to try their new skills out with her.

Conclusion

It was very clear to me that Abby has worked with and understands the audience she writes for.

She includes comments and questions (with the answers) from her students.

She encourages the beginner to look on using the computer as an adventure and not to worry about the mistakes they will be making.

She advises learning in stages and taking breaks.

Is This Thing On? would make an excellent gift for anyone who is interested in learning computers.

After saying how good this book is for newbies, I will have to admit I picked up some pointers myself.

I also had a veteran computer using friend buy a copy of this book for herself after looking at mine.

List price: \$15.95

SBN: 0761146199

This article has been obtained from Articles2Go with permission to reprint by non-profit, or other user groups with credit given to the author, the publication and the user group. A copy of this newsletter has been sent to the author, or editor.

* * * * *

Smart Computing Magazine Tips

Get Home Quickly:

Whether you're searching a Web page, halfway through a long Word document, or checking out the latest numbers in an Excel sheet, in order to get to the very beginning of the information you're looking at, you can press CTRL-HOME.

This will instantly return you to the start of any page without you scrolling your mouse or pressing an arrow key until you get to where you need to be.

Hard-To-Read Web Pages

Some Web sites and email messages are really hard to read. Whoever designed them may not have realized that some users have a hard time reading dark text on colored backgrounds.

Here's a trick that can help. Select the text with a click and drag of your mouse. This usually highlights it in white on a blue background.

If the text is still hard to read this way, copy and paste it into Notepad or some other black-on-white text editor.

Reprinted with permission from Smart Computing. Visit www.SmartComputing.com/groups to learn what Smart Computing can do for you and your user group!

SIG News

This section is where you can find out information on what is happening in some of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs), currently running, as well as upcoming.

Information provided here is from the SIG Moderators, and as such is not a complete listing, nor does it reflect everything happening in the SIGs. See the SIG listings and schedules in later pages of this newsletter, as well as checking <http://brcs.org> regularly, for more information.



Digital Photography
First Wednesdays
MODERATOR, JERRY DINERMAN

The SIG will resume its normal scheduling, starting with the January 5, 2011 session.



Paint Shop Pro And Then Some
Second Tuesdays
MODERATOR, STAN GLAZER

Stan always has something interesting at his sessions, sometimes he even goes over things from previous sessions, in case you might have missed it.

Join him and learn about digital liposuction, and other ways to improve the look of you photos, using Photo-Shop



Windows XP/Vista/Win7 SIG
Second Thursdays
MODERATOR, RICHARD MILLER

Richard's SIG resumes its regular schedule Thursday, December 9, 2010.



Hardware/Software
Fourth Tuesday
MODERATOR,
"CAPTAIN RAY" SOLLBERGER

Ray can not make it for the December session, nor can Larry Jablon, who capably assists Ray, so there will be no session in December.



Freeware / Open Source
Fourth Thursdays
MODERATOR, STEVE COSTELLO

The December 24, 2011 session, the night before Christmas Eve, will concentrate on where and how I find freeware.

Files from the Freeware SIG sessions can be found in their own folders at: <http://box.net/brcs-freewaresig>.

A *BRCS Freeware SIG* blog has been started, and is available at: <http://brcsfreewaresig.blogspot.com/>. Visit the blog often, and leave a comment on specific posts, as well as on the about page.

Let me know what kind of freeware you are interested in, or let me know what you use in place of what I use, or problems you are having with freeware.

BRCS Member's Help Line

This help line is for BRCS members who need answers to technical questions, but cannot wait for the monthly meetings. Help-line volunteers offer their time to assist BRCS Members only!

Note: Some volunteers will answer questions only by email.

If you would like to become a Help Line volunteer, contact:

Help Line Coordinator Larry Jablon:

Phone: (Noon to 10PM only) (561) 368-8028

Email ljablon@juno.com.

Digital Photography

Jerry Dinerman.....gerald@dinerman.com

Freeware

Steve Costello (email only)editor@brcs.org

General Computer Questions

Larry Jablon..... 561 368-8028

.....Afternoon and Evenings

Hardware

Ray Sollberger.....(561)487-2854

HTML

Jerry Bartzoff (email only) jbartzoff@comcast.net

Skype (Telephone via the Internet)

Luis Sanchez 561 483-6771

Spanish Interpreter (Will relay questions)

Luis Sanchez 561 483-6771

PLEASE REMEMBER:

When you call the help-line, the people who answer are volunteers. please treat them courteously.

Helpline contacts are not paid employees. They are fellow club members, who have volunteered to try to assist you. *Please interact with them as such.*

Computer Help At Your Home From a BRCS Member

These club members make house calls. They have different skill levels, areas of expertise, and will charge different rates.

The listing of any name does **NOT** constitute a recommendation by BRCS of the person providing the service.

Call, or email, them for pricing, and to make appointments.

Percy Alexander	561 483-4378
Bob Dobski	561-265-0437
Richard Miller	561-393-5813
Lee Reynolds	954-755-8541
Ray Sollberger	561-487-2854

PERSONAL ADS

We are happy to run a personal ad, free of charge, and subject to space availability, for members of BRCS.

Items must be computer related hardware or software.

Send information, with a subject line beginning with the words BRCS Personal Ad, via email to:

editor@brcs.org

Meeting / SIG Information

Locations

Patch Reef Park

Exit I-95 at Yamato Road. Go West to second left turn after Military Trail (approximately 1/4 mile). Patch Reef Park is on the South side of Yamato Road.

South County Civic Center

On Jog Road, four or five blocks South of Linton Boulevard (opposite the Morikami Japanese Gardens).

Sheriff's Office,

345 S. Congress Ave., Delray Beach.

Please leave the last parking space open for the SIG leader.

He/she has a lot of equipment to bring in for the class. It is impractical for the SIG Leader to carry it all from the general parking lot.

Meetings

Board Meeting

2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m. at Patch Reef Park.

General Membership Meeting

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at South County Civic Center. **Q & A** Tables start at 6:15 PM.

Special Interest Group (SIG) Locations

Paint Shop Pro And Then Some, Freeware / Open Source SIG , Hardware/Software, and Windows XP/ Vista/Win7 SIG

Sheriff's Office, Room 219

Advanced Mutual Fund Investing

Sheriff's Office, Room 108

Digital Photography

Patch Reef Park

Special Interest Groups

Advanced Mutual Fund Investing

Purpose: Advanced research of mutual funds market.

Contact: Gary Elsner
GElsner@AnalyticFinancialSolutions.com

Meets: Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Paint Shop Pro And Then Some

Purpose: Discussions of Paint Shop Pro, and other digital image related items.

Contact: Stan Glazer, glazer@brcs.org

Meets: Second Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Digital Photography - Rescheduled to December 8th

Purpose: Discuss digital cameras, scanners, necessary software, hardware, and computers used in digital photography.

Photo-editing, image organization, and photographic techniques are also discussed.

Contact: Gerald Dinerman (561) 736-5601

Meets: First Wednesday, 1:30 PM

Freeware / Open Source SIG

Purpose: Discuss various freeware/open source applications and utilities, where to find them, and how to use them.

Contact: Steve Costello, brcssteve+sig@gmail.com
(954) 978-9010

Meets: Fourth Thursday, 7:00 PM

Hardware/Software

Purpose: Focuses on computer hardware and associated software.

Contact: Ray Sollberger (561) 487-2854

Meets: Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Windows XP/Vista/Win7 SIG

Purpose: Review and learn to fine tune Windows XP, Vista, and Windows 7.

Contact: Richard Miller (561) 393-5813

Meets: Second Thursday, 7:00 PM

Boca Bits Activities Calendars

December 2010							DAY	MEETING	TIME
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Wed 8	Digital Photography SIG (Rescheduled)	1:30 PM
			1	2	3	4	Thu 9	Windows XP/Vista/Win7 SIG	7:00 PM
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Mon 13	Board Meeting	7:30 PM
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Tue 14	Paint Shop Pro And Then Some	7:00 PM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Wed 15	Question & Answer Tables	6:15 PM
26	27	28	29	30	31			General Meeting	7:30 PM
							Sat 18	Boca Bits Submission Deadline	1:00 PM
							Thu 23	Freeware / Open Source SIG	7:00 PM
							Tue 28	Advanced Mutual Fund Investing SIG	7:00 PM
								Hardware SIG (Cancelled for December)	7:00 PM

Be sure to check the BRCS website at

<http://www.bracs.org>

for locations, cancellations or changes, prior to the SIG or meeting you plan to attend.

January 2011							DAY	MEETING	TIME
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Wed 5	Digital Photography SIG	1:30 PM
						1	Mon 10	Board Meeting	7:30 PM
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Tue 11	Paint Shop Pro And Then Some	7:00 PM
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Thu 13	Windows XP/Vista/Win7 SIG	7:00 PM
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Wed 19	Question & Answer Tables	6:15 PM
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		General Meeting	7:30 PM
30	31						Sat 22	Boca Bits Submission Deadline	1:00 PM
							Tue 25	Advanced Mutual Fund Investing SIG	7:00 PM
								Hardware SIG	7:00 PM
							Thu 27	Freeware / Open Source SIG	7:00 PM

Member of
The Florida
Association of
Computer User Groups



Member of
The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Boca Raton Computer Society, Inc.
5030 Champion Blvd., G-6 #202
Boca Raton, FL 33496-2473

Membership is \$45.00 per year and includes the monthly Newsletter, Help Lines, attendance at SIG meetings, and more.

First Name _____	Last Name _____
Address _____	Home Phone () _____
City _____	Work Phone () _____
State _____ Zip _____	My Email Address _____

We depend upon volunteers to maintain the quality and efficiency of the organization. Your participation will not only help the club, but help you become more proficient on the computer. Please let us know your fields of interest.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

Community Computer Clubs that you belong to:

Alternate Address (for our Snowbirds)

Do you want your newsletter, Boca Bits, mailed to another address for part of the year? If yes, complete the following:

Address _____	Home Phone () _____
City _____	Dates: From _____ Through _____
State _____ Zip _____	mm/dd/yy mm/dd/yy

Boca Raton Computer Society, Inc
5030 Champion Blvd., G-6 #202
Boca Raton, FL 33496-2473



NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BOCA RATON FL
PERMIT NO. 783

About The Boca Raton Computer Society

Since 1983, members of the PC User Group of Boca Raton, now the Boca Raton Computer Society, Inc., have been helping one another use and learn about computers.

We have nearly 300 members, including computer professionals, business owners, home users, and novices.

We welcome hundreds of visitors to our meetings each year. Network with others who share your interests!

GENERAL MEETINGS (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

General meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, at the South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road in Delray Beach, Florida.

The Civic Center is on the east side of Jog Road, between Clint Moore Rd. and Linton Blvd., opposite Morikami Park.

At 6:15 p.m. several **QUESTION and ANSWER** sessions are held to offer assistance to those seeking help with various computer topics. These sessions are staffed by club members.

The formal meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., with most meetings featuring presentations by outside speakers including Microsoft, IBM, Adobe, Corel, etc.

The **Board of Directors** meets on the second Monday of each month, at 7:00 p.m., at Patch Reef Park on Yamato Road, just west of Military Trail, in Boca Raton. Members are welcome to attend.

SERVICES

BRCS members receive our monthly newsletter, *Boca Bits*, which provides information about meetings, SIGS, and includes articles by prominent writers, about current computer-related topics.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are smaller meetings which explore specific topics in greater depth, such as Graphics, Hardware, Software, Windows, Scanners, email and Internet, to name a few.

Although we support the sharing of Public-domain and user-supported software, the BRCS strongly opposes illegal distribution of copyrighted software.

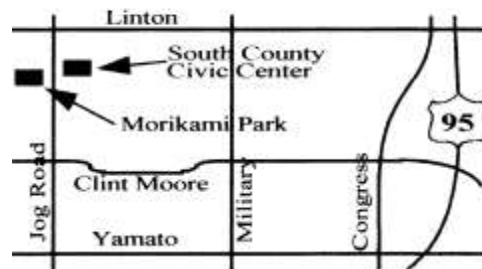
From time to time, the BRCS arranges group purchase discounts on major hardware and software items.

DUES (U.S. address only)

Membership is \$45 per year and includes the monthly newsletter, Help Lines, attendance to SIG meetings and more.

Dues may be paid at the general meetings or mailed to the address listed below.

GENERAL MEETING SITE



Visit the Boca Raton Computer Society's Web Page on the Internet
<http://www.brcs.org>