

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....

Founded 1984 **ARI** is the
Official Newsletter of
Computers Are Easy User Group

February
2014
Volume XXXI Issue 2

**Confirmed
meeting
dates**

February 22
4th Saturday

March 22
4th Saturday

April 26
4th Saturday

May 24
4th Saturday

Check
www.caeug.net
for confirmed
meeting dates

MEETING
PLACE
is the
Glenside Public
Library
*** **

Visitors
Welcome
HOPE TO SEE
YOU THERE!!



***** February 2014 meeting *****

February meeting -- February 22 4th Saturday

Tom Soltis will demonstrate
Adobe Lightroom

**New year reminder to all members:
Dues are due every January!**

For just \$20.00 a year you receive ten informative presentations. The bonus is all presentations is accompanied by coffee, donuts & bagels, your choice. Don't forget our wonderfully relaxing annual CAEUG picnic. Also, you will have the opportunity to bring your computer related problems to the Members forum at every meeting. You could have your computer problem solved with the wealth of knowledge of other members. That means a huge savings to you not having to call a heldesk that could charge you big bucks. You also will continue to receive the ARI CAEUG monthly newsletter.

To renew your membership see John St. Clair, Treasurer, at the third Saturday, February 22 meeting and pay your annual dues.

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Some Thoughts on Windows 8

By Tom Kuklinski, President

Computer Users of Erie, PA

July 2013 issue, Horizons

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It now has been over half a year since Microsoft released Windows 8. The operating system is actually off to a good start in terms of licenses sold. Microsoft claims over 100 million sold so far. That is not bad. In fact, that is really great. That is about what Windows 7 sold in its first six months.

What really is interesting is the lack of PC sales. Worldwide sales were down 14%. The last quarter was the worst ever for PC sales. The trend is not expected to stop.

This is causing many people in the industry to point fingers at each other. Some of the manufacturers are saying it is because people do not like Windows 8. Some are saying that consumers are not buying laptops or desktops because they are buying tablet computers instead.

To me, what is interesting is how the industry does not recognize what it created. When you look around, many sectors of industry have been affected by the 'computer'. Where is the typewriter these days? It has been replaced. Where is the encyclopedia salesman? Yes, the internet has dissolved that position. These are paradigm shifts that were caused by the introduction of computers. These shifts are occurring now with computers itself.

Room size computers have been replaced by Desktop computers. Desktops have been replaced by laptops. Laptops are being replaced by Tablet computers. And someday, Tablet computers will be replaced by something not yet invented. That is the way it goes. Simple!

Windows 8 was introduced to be the future of computers. It was to work for desktops, laptops, tablets and phones. Microsoft developed an operating system that would cover all bases and remain consistent from one device to the other. The user would not have to stress about learning a new operating system when using these different computers. Sounds like a grand plan.

So why is Windows getting so much bad press?

Let's take a look at this for one moment.

Inside of Windows 8 is the best operating system that Microsoft has developed. It really works well. It is compatible with much of the world. When you look deeper inside its 'apps', you will find everything you are used to with previous versions of Windows. I do recommend Windows 8.

What we have is a conundrum. When you go to buy a PC computer what do you see that is being offered for sale?

Nothing attractive. The desktop looks about the same as it did twenty years ago. The 'all in one' computers are underpowered and high priced. This means it is already outdated. The laptops

look basically the same as they did twenty years ago also. As you know, Windows XP, Vista and 7 look about the same. This look has been around for over twenty years. People do not like change.

Put the pieces of the puzzle together and you will better understand why Windows 8 is getting a bad rap. Microsoft is a software company and not a hardware company. Just a few years ago, Steve Ballmer said there is no market for tablet computers. He was contented with the same and felt you should be also. For twenty years Microsoft has enjoyed its lofty place as the largest software company in the world. And for twenty years it has re-branded and resold basically the same product. HP, Dell, Asus, Acer and Lenovo are hardware companies and not software. HP and Dell have done the same.

The mouse is still the same three button device from twenty years ago. We still have ports on computers that are outdated and seldom used. These companies simply resold the same product from twenty years ago.

A company called Apple took a bold chance and introduced the iPad. It was completely different than anything being offered at the time. People loved it and bought them by the millions. It became an instant success. This is an anomaly.

For once in twenty years, Microsoft and the hardware companies now had to play catch up with Apple.

The hardware companies still sat on their laurels. Microsoft, on the other hand, went to work. In just a little over a year developed Windows 8. They did not copy what Apple had done. Because it now was their own product and not a copycat of Apple, people perceive it as different. People do not like change. Windows 8 looks different. Therefore people do not like Windows 8.

This is really too bad. Windows 8 is an enjoyable operating system. It offers everything that previous versions of Windows offered. It is rock solid and very compatible. In any case, Microsoft is not going to issue a recall. Windows 8 will be around for a long time. So to take a quote from a Star Trek show, "Resistance is Futile."

Windows 8: New App Controls – Start Screen and Charms Bar

By Phil Sorrentino, Past President, Sarasota PCUG, FL

August 2013 issue, PC Monitor

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Apps are what make mobile devices -tablets and phones- so useful. That should sound familiar, it was the same opening sentence used in last month's Windows 8 Apps article, and it's still very true. Apps rule. Apps are different from computer programs that operate on the Windows 7 Desktop. Each App runs in full screen; there are no overlapping windows, there are few menus, and Apps run best on a touch-screen device. The Start Screen and the Charms bar are two of the new ways to control or use Apps, the heart of the new features of windows. The Start Screen, which is the default screen after Windows 8 has been started, provides entry into the Windows 8 App Universe (rest assured that the "Desktop App" still gets you back to the old favorite, Windows 7 world). The "Charms bar" is a universal toolbar, and is hidden, but it is always available; just move the mouse to the lower (or upper) right corner of the screen and left click (Windows key+C

key, also gets you there). The Charms Bar contains Search, Share, Start, Devices, and Settings. (Now I guess you can see why it is called the Charms Bar. Don't the icons for those options, Search, Share, Start, Devices, and Settings, look like charms you may have seen dangling from a charm bracelet? Well, I guess some people at Microsoft must have thought so.)

Settings, which is the gear charm (or icon), is sort of a Control Panel for the App Universe; don't fret, the familiar Windows 7 type Control Panel is still available at the Start screen, just by typing "Control" and then selecting "Control Panel."

"Settings" provides quick access to six of the most often used controls; Volume, Brightness, Notifications, Power, Network, and Keyboard. Volume, Brightness and Keyboard are pretty straight forward.

"Network" provides an opportunity to connect to a network or monitor the strength of your network signal. It also provides a way to disable all radio transmitters (Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and cellphone, if present), by turning On, Airplane mode (something you will want to use, when boarding an airplane).

"Notifications" provides the ability to have the notifications pop-up messages disabled for 1, 3, or 8 hours. The idea here is that, in a business environment, you may not want to be interrupted by the fact that you have an incoming mail message, while you are in the middle of an important presentation, or such.

"Power" provides the "Shut down" options, shut-down, sleep, and re-start (hibernate has to be added to the list, if desired). "Power" provides a way to shut down the computer, similar to the options provided on the Windows 7 "Start" button.

The "Charms bar – Settings" option also gets you to a few other controls, specific to Apps. At the top of the Settings panel, there are entries to "Tiles," "Help" and others like "PC info." These options seem to change depending on what you have been doing with your computer. I've only used the "Help" option which seemed fairly helpful. Also, at the bottom of the "Charms bar – Settings" panel, there is an entry to a whole host of PC settings. To get to these controls just click "Change PC settings". Many of these Settings provide similar capabilities to those found in the Control Panel. The following is a summary of these categories.

"Personalize" provides controls for the "Lock" screen, controls for the "Start" Screen, and choices for your "Account Picture". You can even create a picture for your account using the on-board camera, just look into the screen (camera) and click the Camera icon below "Create an account picture", and then just tap the touch-pad, (or screen if you have a touch-sensitive screen).

"Users" lets you add accounts to this machine.

"Notifications" allows you to determine if Apps can provide Alerts to the operator. Each App's Alert can be individually enabled or disabled. In addition, the Notification sound can be turned on or off.

"Search" provides control over the Search capability and allows you to determine which Apps can

use Search. This is also the place where you can “Delete your Search History,” for those of you who would like to keep your Searches private.

“Share” provides control over the Apps that can be used to share things, like photos or web pages. You can individually enable or disable Apps like Mail, People, and SkyDrive as methods for sharing.

“General” is a collection of general settings. Here you can set the time, modify the way spelling errors are handled. “General” also includes two new features for initializing your computer, 1-Refresh, and 2-Remove & Reinstall. The first feature, “Refresh your PC without affecting your files” resets your computer settings to their original factory states, and removes any Apps that didn’t come from the Windows App Store, while leaving your files untouched. The second feature “Remove everything and reinstall Windows” sets your computer back to the way it was originally delivered. All your files are deleted and your settings are put back to their factory states. This might be something you may want to do when or if you give or sell your computer to someone.

“Privacy” lets you determine if Apps can use your Location, Name, or Account Picture. Some Apps can provide useful information if they are allowed to use your location, like an App that shows you the cheapest gas station nearest to you.

“Devices” displays every device your computer is connected to, such as printers, scanners, cameras, etc.

“Wireless” provides control over your wireless networks. Here you can enable Airplane which would turn off your Wi-Fi network (Bluetooth and/or Cell, if included on your mobile device).

“Ease of Access” provides a few controls to make your computing experience easier if you have hearing or seeing difficulties. All of the “Ease of Access” controls can still be found in Control Panel.

“Sync your Settings” provides individual enable/disable switches for the things you want to synchronize over your internet connection. Your settings, passwords, favorites and other preferences can sync to any Windows 8 machine that you log into.

“Homegroup” provides an easy way to set up a network among several Windows machines at the same location. Within a Homegroup, you can easily share documents, pictures, videos, music, and printers.

“Windows Update” shows your choice as to Update, or not to Update, Windows 8. If you have chosen “Turn on recommended settings” in the Control Panel, then Windows will periodically check for and install Windows updates. Other choices are to “Check for updates but let me choose when to download and install them,” and “Download updates but let me choose whether to install them.” “Turn on recommended settings” is probably the safest choice.

Now you see that we have all the necessary control over Apps, let’s go and take some out for a test ride. Well, maybe in a future article.



Lamp Post 155

February 2014
by John Spizzirri

I have a problem that I am still searching to answer. I will describe the problem and the solutions that have not worked thus far. Hopefully, I will have a successful solution in next month's column. I have a 128GB flash drive from MicroCenter. For some reason ten subdirectories became corrupted. The corruption was apparent as soon as it

happened because folder and file names became symbols (like WingDing font characters). If you wish to see WingDing font characters;

- click Start
- click Settings (in Windows XP)
- click Control Panel
- click Fonts
- click WingDings Regular

A page will open with the font characters displayed in different point sizes.

I tried to delete the corrupted folders but, was unable to because there was no delete command on the right click menu and the delete key did nothing. I tried to save a file to an uncorrupted folder but was unable to do so because an error came up stating; "You can't save here. Choose another location." I then tried to copy existing files to an uncorrupted folder and got the error message; "The disk is write protected. Remove the write protection or use another disk." I searched the Internet for a similar problem. I found numerous sites that described the problem and offered solutions. The solutions offered all started with check the flash drive for a locking switch and set the switch to write. The MicroCenter flash drives do not have such a switch. The next solution is to check for a virus. Malwarebytes **(1)** did find one Trojan file named, USBank_December_2013_...zip. There were five hexadecimal numbers after 2013_. I checked the Internet and found that it was actually a double extension file 'Pony loader' **((2), (3))**. It was a zipped file that I had not opened or extracted which is necessary for the malicious botnet **(4)** to be implemented. I could not delete the zip file with the same problems that I encountered with the corrupted files and folders. When files cannot be modified or saved, the articles suggest formatting the drive. When I tried that, I got the disk is write protected error, again. The solutions **((5), (6))** to write protection is to edit the registry. Editing the registry is a dangerous thing to do, so be very cautious if you do it. Here is the process;

- click Start
- click Run (See the next section to access the Run command in Vista and Windows 7)
- type Regedit and click OK

Before doing any editing I recommend backing up the whole registry. Here is how to do that. When the registry editor opens, click on highlight Computer. Click File then click Export then in the dialog box that appears pick a folder to save the file and give it a name. I created a folder called RegBackup in the Download folder. I named my registry back up file Full20140210.reg Full

is for the type of backup it is followed by the date. The .reg indicates that it is a registry file that is executable (it modifies the registry if double clicked). You will have to wait while the saving process is working. My registry file was 379MB in size and took a little over a minute to save. To get to the editing process click HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE then click SYSTEM then click CurrentControlSet then click Control then click StorageDevicePolicies. Inside the StorageDevicePolicies is a 'REG_DWORD' named WriteProtect. It should have a data value of 0 (zero). If the value is 1, right click WriteProtect and select Modify... When the dialog box appears change the Value data to 0 and click OK.

If StorageDevicePolicies does not exist, you can create it by right clicking on Control and selecting New then Key. A new Key folder will be created. Give it the name StorageDevicePolicies Spelling and capitalization count, so be exact.

If WriteProtect does not exist, you can create it by right clicking on the right frame, selecting New and then DWORD. When it is created, name it WriteProtect

Hopefully, these explanations are not too confusing. Once the registry is modified, the computer must be restarted. Plug in the flash drive and see if it can be formatted. In my case it could not be. The next solution is Diskpart. It is part of Windows. It runs in a DOS box. To implement it;

- click Start
- click Run
- type diskpart
- type list disk (be sure the flash drive is plugged in)
- type select disk x (where x is the number of your flash drive - use the drive capacity to work out which one it is)
- type attributes disk clear readonly
- type clean
- type create partition primary
- type format fs=fat32 (this creates a fat 32 file system)
- type exit

If you do not get error messages, this will solve the problem. In my case, it did not. I had error messages starting with the attributes command. My last resort was to run a Linux live disk and run the GParted application for partitioning drives. When I ran GParted, it would not recognize the flash drive. There is no guarantee that any of these solutions will work for you. Your drive or memory card may be corrupt or broken and no utility or low-level formatting tool will make it work again. The only solution in this case is to buy a new drive. I will be checking with Microcenter to see if they will replace this drive for free or a reduced cost.

- 1) <https://www.malwarebytes.org/>
- 2) <http://sn.im/28la23n>
- 3) <http://sn.im/28la25k>
- 4) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botnet>
- 5) <http://sn.im/28la26t>
- 6) <http://sn.im/28la28b>

How to get the Run command on the menu of Windows 7 or Vista is not difficult. Click the start orb to reveal the Start Menu. On the right side of the Start Menu right click to reveal the

Properties menu. Click Properties to reveal the Task Bar and Start Menu dialog box. Click the Start Menu tab and then the Customize... button. The Customize Start Menu dialog box opens. About three quarters of the way down the list is a Run command check box. Check that box and click OK. When you click the Start orb again, you will note that the Run command appears on the right side of the Start Menu. To get the Run command in Windows 8 or 8.1 start the Charms bar on the right side of the screen. Click Search and type run and press enter. The Run box will open.

There is a play coming to the Steppenwolf Theater **(1)**, 1650 N Halsted St, Chicago on February 26 through March 15 called Leveling Up **(2)**. The play is about three twenty-something computer gaming friends. One of them gets a job with the National Security Agency **(NSA (3))** using his computer gaming skills to kill people with remote controlled aircraft **(drones (4))**. The play explores the mental conflict that arises when gaming skill actually turns deadly much like the movie called Enders Game with Harrison Ford **(5)**.

- 1) <http://www.steppenwolf.org/>
- 2) <http://sn.im/28la29q>
- 3) <http://www.nsa.gov/>
- 4) <http://sn.im/28la2bc>
- 5) <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1731141/>

By the time you get this news letter you will still have time to get to Mardi Gras New Orleans **(1)**, Rio De Janeiro **(2)**, Trinidad **(3)**, or for those who like cold weather, Quebec City **(4)**. Fat Tuesday is March 4th. This presents an interesting phenomenon. Some students will be on spring break before the end of Mardi Gras. Tulane University of Louisiana spring break starts on March 1st. The latest spring break this year will be April 12th at Louisiana State University Baton Rouge **(5)**. If you like Mardi gras, warm weather, and not a lot of college aged people, it looks like Rio is the best choice. College students will be all over Florida, the Gulf Coast, and the Caribbean.

- 1) <http://www.mardigrasneworleans.com/>
- 2) <http://sn.im/28la2cr>
- 3) <http://sn.im/28la2dv>
- 4) <http://carnaval.qc.ca/en/>
- 5) <http://sn.im/28la2eu>

You may have been following Microsoft **(MS (1))** in the business pages. MS has finally dumped Steve Ballmer **(2)** as CEO and it's stock share price went up. Ballmer has made some truly bad decisions that have hindered MS in its competition with Google **(3)** and Yahoo **(4)**. Among them is the direction of Windows 8 and keeping the artificially high pricing on Windows and Office. Ballmer will maintain a position on the board along with Gates. A decision that has not yet had the test of time is the purchase of Nokia which takes MS in a hardware direction. The CEO of Nokia, Stephen Elop **(5)**, comes (back) to MS as a devices team leader that reports to the CEO. A 22 year veteran of MS, Satya Nadella **(6)**, moves up to CEO. Nadella's net worth of \$45 million makes him a pauper compared to Ballmer's \$18 billion **(7)**. Ballmer may not have done well for MS but certainly did well for himself.

- 1) <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/default.aspx>

- 2) <http://sn.im/28la2g3>
- 3) <https://www.google.com/>
- 4) <https://www.yahoo.com/>
- 5) <http://sn.im/28la2h3>
- 6) <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/news/ceo/index.html>
- 7) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Ballmer#Retirement

One of the lowest things done by scammers is the e-mail sent to millions of people that may or may not have been shoppers at Target stores (1) from the day after Thanksgiving (black Friday) until the end of last year. What the scammers have done is e-mail people claiming to be Target and asked for credit card information (2). Target has not, does not, and will not e-mail anyone about credit information. The only e-mail they have sent indicates that they will pay for credit monitoring and told consumers to do a credit freeze with the credit bureaus. Target did not ask for any information. I am not exonerating Target for its culpability, but once they admitted to the breach they seem to have done the right thing. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC (3)) has issued a warning to consumers about this scam.

- 1) <http://www.target.com/>
- 2) <http://sn.im/28la2ip>
- 3) <http://sn.im/28la2jw>

If your name or family name has appeared in an obituary, watch out for another e-mail scam. An e-mail that purports to be from a funeral home (1). The e-mail claims to have information about the wake and funeral, if a link is clicked. The link loads malware on the recipient's PC. The link has a screen shot of the e-mail. You may wonder how a scammers can get your e-mail from just a last name. The web site to get that kind of information is Pipl (2). They may also have purchased name and e-mail lists on the Deep Web ((3), (4)).

- 1) <http://www.hoax-slayer.com/funeral-notification-malware-emails.shtml>
- 2) <https://pipl.com/>
- 3) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_web
- 4) <http://deep-web.org/how-to-research/deep-web-search-engines/>

John Whitehead (1), founder and president of The Rutherford Institute (2) Has written an article (3) on the various ways the government and corporations are tracking you and prying into your personal affairs. Whitehead has condensed many of these violations of your rights and trust into two pages. In the same vein, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF (4)) created a Surveillance Self-Defense site (5)

- 1) <http://sn.im/28la2l3>
- 2) <https://www.rutherford.org/>
- 3) <http://sn.im/28la2m7>
- 4) <https://www.eff.org/>
- 5) <https://ssd.eff.org/>

Between you, me and the LampPost, that's all for now.

February 2014 DVD of the Month

AbiWord - Updated word processor
AmmyyAdmin - Remote desktop control software
ARI - February newsletter

cCleaner - Updated HD cleaner
CDOMlists - Lists of past CDOMs and DVDOMs
Chromium - Open source web browser
ComboFix - Updated malware remover

DVB - Receive and watch TV online

FreeCommander - Alternative to the Windows file manager

GlaryUtilities - Updated 20 tools to maximize computer performance
GPUz - Provide information about video card and graphics processor

MemberContributions - Things e-mailed to me from members

OldTimeRadio - Old time radio broadcasts
OpenOffice - Updated office suite
Opera - Updated web browser

PlayBOX - Receive and watch TV online

RogueKiller - Detect and remove running malware

SlimBrowser - Light weight web browser
SpyBotSD - Updated spyware remover
SpyShelter - Anti-keylogging software
SSuiteOffice - Updated office suite

USBbackup - Backup software aimed at small file groups

VLC - Updated media player

WindowsRepairAllinOne - Updated Windows repair utility
WindowsX - Make XP, Vista, or Win 7 look like Win 8

Meeting Location and Special Accommodations

The Glenside Public Library address is at 25 E Fullerton Avenue, Glendale Heights, Illinois. Please park away from the building. Thank you. The meeting(s) are not library sponsored and all inquiries should be directed to Mike Goldberg. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this program and who require certain accommodations in order to observe and / or participate in the program are requested to contact CAEUG president, Mike Goldberg at, at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made.

Members Helpline

Any member with a specific expertise can volunteer to be on the Members Helpline.

Beginner Helpline

- Billy Douglas

Beginner hardware problems

- Dick Fergus

Hardware problems, XP, Win 7 & Linux

- John Spizzirri

CAEUG OFFICERS

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REMINDER: Your annual CAEUG dues are due.
See John St. Clair at the February meeting.