



Do your homework before installing XP Service Pack 2

By **BOB JOHNSON**

Before downloading the Windows XP Pro Service Pack 2, read Microsoft's document, "What to Know Before you Download and Install Windows XP Service Pack 2."

This document is available from a link on the Windows Update site, or you can go to: <http://v5.windowsupdate.microsoft.com/v5consumer/default.aspx?ln=en-us>.

Page 2 of "What to Know," under "Before you Download SP2," recommends getting the latest updates for SP2

from your computer manufacturer, and provides a link to a list of manufacturers.

I checked with HP and found that my 10-month-old HP needed six upgrades that had to be installed before installing SP2. If I hadn't loaded the upgrades I would have lost some functions.

Be sure to check for updates from your computer manufacturer before installing SP2.

Also, downloading SP2 in mid-afternoon was a bit of a hassle even with broadband. Microsoft's site had so much activity that my download stopped at about 40 per-

cent. I was finally able to get back on the site and complete the download at 11 p.m.

If you would like to avoid the hassle, Microsoft is offering a CD with the SP2 upgrade at no charge, not even for shipping. Delivery is quoted at 4 to 6 weeks. The CD is available at:

www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/updates/sp2/cdorder/en_us/default.msp.



Photo by Tim Johnson

Distance Learning at VWCC

Inez Farrell, coordinator of distance learning at Virginia Western Community College, explained the school's four types of distance courses. For more information, see minutes, page 3.

Know Woody? His newsletter's worth your time

In a recent newsletter, Woody Leonhard, who describes him as a Certified Office Victim, tells you what to do when "documents go wrong" because a file name gets corrupted or you wrote it on one computer and now learn it will not open on another.

His advice:

"Fixing a bad or missing extension is soooo simple. Just rename the file. In Windows Explorer find the file you want to open.

"Click on the file name then choose File | Rename, or press F2. You can then change the filename and extension - to make it viewable in Word just add ".doc" without the quotes at the end. Press Enter to save the new file name.

See Woody, page 4

(Meets 2nd Saturday of Month)

Next Meeting
Sat., Sept. 11

Place: Arnold R. Burton
Technology Center, Room
105, 1760 Roanoke
Boulevard, Salem, Va.
24153

Time: 9:15 a.m. - noon

Today's Program:

Home networking does not
have to be difficult; see a
demonstration on how to
link your machines

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Help your newsletter

You are invited to share favorite websites, reviews of software or just general computer experiences. If you don't want to write the article, just send your notes to sbk@rev.net or to editor at rvpcc.org.

The President's Desk

Lionel Melancon president@rvpcc.org



I've been frequenting Lewis-Gale Medical Center so often lately that everyone knows my name – at least they pronounce the Lionel part right. On my most recent trip, however, I entered my favorite Health Spa by a side door. Nobody recognized me, but they went right to work. After I swallowed a camera – in my medicated sleep, thank goodness – they cauterized an ulcer. After a while, I was sent to better quarters in my favorite spa on the 5th floor of the facility on Braeburn Drive in Salem.

After a couple of days of being catered to, I went home. My only bad experience was when I was able to eat. The best choice available to me was scrambled eggs.

When room service brought the tray, there were only spoons on it. I guess they figured since I was on a "soft" diet, I was unable to handle regular eating utensils.

The next morning, I told the room service woman it had been at least 70 years since I ate

my scrambled eggs with a spoon; she laughed, bless her.

The eggs were fine, however, which supports the hospital's recent news that a Gallup Survey revealed a 19 percent improvement in patient satisfaction with food services since the place introduced At Your Request Room Service Dining a little over a year ago.

With At Your Request Room Service Dining, patients can now order when they want to eat and not be forced into a set time. You can be forced to eat with spoons, though.

Speaking of Gallup: the www.gallup.com site is full of great information about recent in-depth surveys and daily looks at issues, such as citizen support for the war in Iraq.

Log on, and check it out.

Sites to see:

www.gallup.com

www.computerclub.org/clubs.htm—interesting links here



Secretary's Report August

Margaret Hoag, secretary@rvpcc.org

Saturday, August 14, 2004

Lionel Melancon, president, called the meeting to order and welcomed guests Candy Springer and Maria Spenser-Etienne.

OFFICER UPDATE:

Secretary - Margaret Ann Hoag - Minutes of the last three meetings were approved.

Membership Chairman - Del Kirschner - Membership stable.

Treasurer - Azella Tingler - Delivered Door Prizes on her way to work. All bills are paid and we have sufficient money in the account.

Public Relations - Bill Scott - He asked for ideas on programs for upcoming meetings. Also stated that any member could give a program.

Roanoke County Schools - Homer Duff - The Roanoke County Public Schools' Adult Education Classes schedule was published with Aug. 14 issues of The Roanoke Times. Homer asked that we encourage people to take classes. The schools also give group classes for businesses. If there is a special class you would like to take, call the office and staff will see if there is enough interest to hold the class.

Editor - Sandra Kelly - Absent
Webmaster - Tim Johnson - Said newsletter is online and explained an internet access resource.

1st Vice President - Ernie Arnett -

explained another access service.

Access-4 Program

Tim told us about a website called access-4, which is free for the first 10 hours. Over that, the service costs \$1 an hour up to a maximum of \$10 a month for unlimited access.

Wal-mart access

Ernie has a Wal-mart account that costs \$9.95 a month unlimited access. He also reminded us that elections are coming up toward the end of the year.

PROGRAM: Bill Scott introduced our speaker, Inez Farrell, who is Coordinator of Distance Learning at Virginia Western Community College. She spoke about four different kinds of Distance Learning Classes that Virginia Western offers.

They are:

ASYNCHRONOUS: Totally web-based, any time, any place, anywhere.

HYBRID: Sometimes any time, any place, anywhere. Face-to-face instruction with distance delivery instructional information, mandatory class meetings, audio web conferencing, online content and use of Discussion Board.

ELLUMINATE LIVE: Class limited to 25 people. Can talk, write, and have conferencing. Class has a moderator, has Application Sharing and can use Power-Point.

SYNCHRONOUS: Same time, same place; uses computers.

With or without an instructor.

Myths about Distance Learning:

1. It's easier - It's not
2. Less time consuming - no - about the same.
3. No deadlines - You can finish earlier, but all have deadlines.

Truths about Distance Learning:

1. Learn just as much - usually compensate and learn more.
2. More responsibility.
3. Flexible scheduling of time.
4. Communication is critical.
5. Save travel time and money.

For more information: call 857-6202. E-mail:

www.virginiawestern.edu and click on Distance Learning.

DOOR PRIZES:

1. Tim Johnson - Floppies.
2. Ernie Arnett - Pen
3. Phyllis Morris - Streets and Trips.
4. Margaret Ann Hoag - Paper.
5. John Cook - T-shirt.
6. Connie Kirk - CD
7. Sandy Johnson - CD.
8. Diana Struven - CD
9. Wilbur Sharp - CD
10. Bill Farmer - CD

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Ann Hoag, Secretary



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To:

Woody—

From page 1

"If you did it right, the icon next to the file name will change to the usual blue W icon for Microsoft Word. Double-click on the file and it'll open in Word.

"Sometimes you can't or don't want to change the file name - you can still open the file. Right-click on the file and choose Open - depending on the version of Windows you'll get some message saying Windows can't work out what program to use.

In Windows XP, select the option 'Select the program from a list,' which takes you to the Open with ... Dialog; select the program you want to use from that list and it will open."

To learn more about Woody and his website and books, visit www.woodyswatch.com.

His latest book is "Office 2003 Timesaving Techniques for Dummies."

You can set up your address to receive his e-mail Woody's Office for Mere Mortals newsletters that comes with links to the latest site info.

Find a table of contents for the book at:

www.woodyswatch.com/l.asp?0764567616.

Library gets new Genealogy database

AncestryPlus, a comprehensive on-line genealogical and local history database, is now available in the Main Library's Virginia Room. The service includes 1.2 billion records in more than 3,000 databases found within AncestryPlus.

Federal census records, passenger and immigration list, military records, and court, land and probate records are among the documents found on this new research database.

For more information on AncestryPlus, contact Roanoke Public Libraries at 853-2785.

Another library resource

The Library of Virginia, www.lva.lib.va.us, is another valuable resource for anyone who wants to learn more about his or her area.

Click on What We Have for a full listing of materials.

Set up eBook access at Roanoke County library

An account that allows access to netLibrary's eBooks can be set up at any Roanoke County library. One set up, you can access books from home.

Volunteers needed To record publications

Voice of the Blue Ridge, a non-profit organization serving the needs of the vision impaired, or others that cannot read the daily newspaper, needs volunteer readers.

Volunteers read publications into a special system that allows persons unable to read to hear news or special features.

Voluntters can do the reading at home over their own phones.

More information can be found at www.vobr.org or by calling 540-985-8900 or 866-985-8900.

Meeting space provided by:



Web hosting provided by:

<http://www.icn.net/>

