



# SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

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Serving the Roanoke Valley

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### Help your newsletter

You are invited to share favorite websites, reviews of software or just general computer experiences. Send your article or notes to [editor@rvpcc.org](mailto:editor@rvpcc.org).



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Next Meeting  
Saturday, April 10, 2010

9:15 a.m.

Topics:

The 'God Mode' in Win 7  
Plus Other Tips for Win 7

by

Bill Scott

## Another Internet Explorer Fault

It seems like about once a month we hear of a new threat related to Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser. The latest one is that Internet Explorer (IE) users running XP can be put at risk if a website convinces them to press the F1 key. This can give the website full control of the user's PC.

On March 1, Microsoft told users "not to press the F1 key when prompted by a Web site." All the details can be read in the Microsoft Security Advisory (981169) at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/advisory/981169.mspx>. Until a patch can be prepared, a work-around involving restricting the Help file can be used if the user is truly concerned. The procedure is included in the security advisory.

Microsoft said that Windows 2000, Windows XP and Windows Server 2003 are impacted by the bug. Any supported versions of Internet Explorer (IE) on those operating systems -- including IE6 on Windows XP -- can be leveraged by attackers. Windows Vista and 7 are safe.

The F1 bug will probably be fixed by the time you read this, but it is another reason to question our continued use of IE. These problems increase the pressure to move away from IE to other browsers like Firefox, Chrome, and Opera.

Of course, then we will have to worry that these alternative browsers will get so popular that the criminals will turn their attention to them as well as IE.

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**PREZ' NOTES**

March 31, 2010



Members, and prospective members

The focus of this month's meeting will be Windows 7. Since one of the two features that crowns Windows 7 Ultimate as the most powerful of its versions is something called "**BitLocker**", it seems worthwhile to spend a few moments considering data security on the PC. **BitLocker** enables encryption of a whole disk volume, which may be a whole drive. Just considering the tremendous opportunity for accidental loss of sensitive data when a drive or a PC is replaced without giving proper attention to erasing content, **BitLocker** seems to be a powerful value for those who need it. Operationally, **BitLocker** gives strong although not absolutely perfect protection. My sense is that BitLocker is a lot of work for those of us who are not charged with protecting an "Enterprise", but it is a very valuable feature for those who are.

As something of a counterpoint to the above discussion, here is information on another interesting piece of security software.

EncryptStick (a \$40 software program that runs on

almost all USB flash drives) claims to protect all the documents, photos, videos and passwords stored on a computer. It lets users create invisible, encrypted vaults (folders containing sensitive files) on the flash drive itself, on any writeable media from hard drives to flash drives and DVDs. Once an EncryptStick-enabled flash drive is plugged into a computer's USB port, the software runs automatically and prompts users for their passwords. Once password is entered, the user can open existing vaults, create new vaults and easily encrypt or decrypt any file. This software enables "encryption on the fly" with the ability to edit documents within their secure vaults while the files are encrypted. More interestingly perhaps, EncryptStick protects against a hacking technique called keystroke-logging. This is often used to steal information such as online bank account credentials. Symantec reports that this makes up over 75 percent of all online threats. EncryptStick prevents this by enabling a user to securely log into sensitive websites, providing advanced algorithmic protection while sensitive passwords are entered. A free trial of EncryptStick can be downloaded with support for Windows XP and Vista from <http://www.EncryptStick.com/>

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## Secretary's Report

Meeting was called to order at 9:17 AM by President John Leary.

Door prizes were won by Lewis Wilson, Andy McLaughlin, Bill Scott, Homer Duff, and Earl Abbott.

### Officer Reports:

**President:** A list of expected programs would be helpful. This might be a Prime Time Publication for Club Programs on the Net.

**Vice President:** Bill said that a WIN 7 Machine Demo would be in next month's meeting.

**Treasurer:** The club is solvent.

**Public Relations:** Andy said that a home-based video show is one of the topics for a future meeting.

**Roanoke County Schools:** Homer said the Principal of Burton Vo-Tech is looking for additional education opportunities, and suggested that our Club could help in this area. Members of the Club suggested the following message:

The Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club is an adjunct to our regular educational offerings. It meets the second Saturday of each month from 9 am-12 pm unless otherwise noted on the website. Membership is available for a nominal fee. It is open to the public. Each meeting focuses on some aspect of computers and technology related topics. For additional information, go to [www.rvpcc.org](http://www.rvpcc.org).

**Program:** Andy McLaughlin and Stan Rogouski presented the Nintendo Wii Product and Wii Fitness Program. Golf and bowling were demonstrated. Their demonstration was very enlightening. Everyone was invited to participate.

The program was closed at 11:47 by Bill Scott.

Respectfully submitted,  
Earl Abbott, Acting Secretary.

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## Stitching Photos into Panoramas

It is easy to photograph a scene in several shots and later stitch them together on your computer into a panoramic photo. No need for a super-wide angle lens. Most cameras come with software that will do the stitching, and many 3<sup>rd</sup>-party programs will do it.

There is one problem, however. When you look at all the pictures you took on that trip, or even that day, it is easy to forget just which pictures you planned to stitch. Here is a way to avoid that problem.

Before you take the pan shots, point the camera down and take a picture of your feet. Take the pan shots, and then take another feet-shot. Now it will be easy to find the panoramic frames sandwiched between the unusual pictures of your feet.

A digital-era photographer thought up this trick. We old film-era guys would never waste pictures that way. Come to think of it, we old film-era guys didn't stitch pictures into panoramas, either.

## Rearrange Paragraphs in Word

Swapping paragraphs in Microsoft Office Word can be complicated. As well as having to cut and paste, you often have to reformat line breaks afterward to make the paragraph line up properly. Instead, you can use the SHIFT+ALT keyboard shortcut.

First, highlight the paragraph that you want to move. You can left-click three times within the paragraph. (One click highlights a character, two a word, and three a paragraph.) Or, hold down the left key of the mouse and move the cursor over the paragraph to highlight it.

Next, hold down SHIFT+ALT, and move the paragraph up or down by using the arrow keys. Each press of an arrow key causes your selected paragraph to jump over one adjacent paragraph.

This tip is from  
Microsoft Daily  
Tips and Tricks.



## Uninstall Internet Explorer 8

If you want to uninstall Internet Explorer 8 and return to an earlier version, read Microsoft's Knowledge Base article titled "How do I uninstall or remove Internet Explorer 8?" It applies to XP and later. Go to <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/957700>.

Unfortunately, there is no safe method to completely remove Internet Explorer. IE is more than just a browser. It works as an underlying technology behind a number of internal Windows processes including updating, basic Windows functionality, and more.

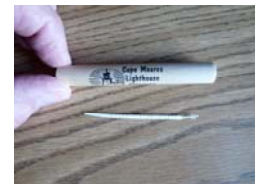
Even though removing Internet Explorer isn't a good idea, you can leave IE in place and use your alternative browser as the one and only way to access the Internet on your Windows PC. However, you may find that Microsoft won't let you obtain any updates unless you use IE. If you still want to try disabling IE, Read the how-to at <http://pccsupport.about.com/od/browsers/f/removeieexp.htm>.

The first member to email the editor at editor@rvpcc.org will get the first choice of door prizes at the April meeting.

## Door Prizes at March Meeting



Book



Toothpick Holder

RVPCC  
P.O. Box 322  
Salem, Va. 24153  
Web: <http://rvpcc.org>  
Email: [info@rvpcc.org](mailto:info@rvpcc.org)

## End Of Support For Older Windows Versions

Microsoft is warning customers that support for some older versions of the Windows operating system will end in the first half of this year.

April 13 – End of support for Windows Vista with no service packs.

July 13 – End of support for Windows XP with SP2

July 13 – End of support for all versions of windows 2000

July 13 – End of support for Windows Server 2000

(The termination of official support for the products means Microsoft will no longer issue security updates for them.)

July 13 - Windows Server 2003 moves from Mainstream Support to Extended support.

(Under Extended Support, Microsoft no longer provides no-charge incident response, warranty coverage, or design changes and feature requests.)

Brandon LeBlanc, Microsoft's in-house Windows blogger, said, "...this is the time to remind customers running these versions that there is a need to take action."

The action to take: If you are running Vista or XP and do not have the latest service packs installed, download and install them now. To determine what Windows version and service pack you are running:

**In Vista:** left-click Start, enter "winver" (without the quotes) into the Search Box, and press return. The Windows version and latest service pack will be shown. SP2 is the latest for Vista.

**In XP:** left-click Start, left-click Run, enter "winver" (without the quotes) into the Open box, and left-click OK. The Windows version and latest service pack will be shown. SP3 is the latest for XP.

Does all this make you wish for Windows 7? To find out if your computer will run 7, go to [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com) and enter "upgrade advisor" (without the quotes) into the search box. Download and run the Advisor to find out what upgrades if any will be needed to run 7.

### RVPC Meetings

**When:** 2nd Saturday of every month

**Where:** Arnold R. Burton  
Tech Center  
Room 105  
1760 Roanoke Blvd.  
Salem, VA 24153

**What time:** 9:15 am until noon

## Task Manager Hint

When your computer freezes (just sits there and doesn't move a whisker), you can often get it moving again by using the Task Manager. Give your computer the three-finger-salute -- simultaneously press the CTRL, ALT, and Delete keys. When the Task Manager screen pops up, go to the "Applications" tab. If you see an application that is listed as "Not Responding," right-click it and select "End Task." The misbehaving application should close and the computer should un-freeze.

If the "End Task" doesn't work, you may be tempted to hold down the start switch or press reset to reboot your computer. But that is a last resort. Before you do that, try one more thing:

Instead of right-clicking the application and selecting "End Task," right-click it and select "Go To Process." This will put you into the "Process" tab of Task Manager. The process associated with your application will be highlighted. Now right-click the highlighted process and select "End Process." This may shut down the entire process and unfreeze your computer.

It's worth a try.

Meeting space provided by  
Roanoke County Schools

# Using a Wii at the March Meeting

Photos by Andy McLaughlin

