

# WINDSOR Seniors' Computer Users' Group

2/9/09 Agenda for Today

1. **Questions/Answers????** - General Discussion. Computer dialog - what's new, what's different, what works or doesn't work? Computer Tips. Upcoming events:

Computer classes: SRJC, SR Cm Center, Windsor HS, Healdsburg HS, SSU Ext

Computer Consultants: Ross Guistino [rossg@sonic.net](mailto:rossg@sonic.net); Chris Bethards [Chbethards@comcast.net](mailto:Chbethards@comcast.net)



## •*Windows 7 beta: First impressions*

"Windows 7 could be one of Microsoft's greatest operating systems, if it fulfills the promise shown by the unofficial best version (build7000) we have been testing for the past couple of days. Let me preface these quick impressions of Redmond's latest opus by saying that I came to Windows 7 after having happily run the much-maligned Windows Vista on my Intel Core 2 Duo-based PC for the past 18 months (alongside Ubuntu 'Linux'). Coming from this background, I have been pleased to discover over the past several days that Microsoft appears to have built on Vista's strengths and addressed most of its weaknesses with the beta release of Windows 7. I found the Windows 7 beta painless install. The 33 MB of updates quickly came down the pipe upon loading the desktop. Basic desktop performance was strong; the reports that Windows 7 is simply faster than Vista appear to be true. Microsoft appears to have wiped out a lot of the Windows XP-era interface quirks of Vista; the result is a much more simplistic, unified experience for common tasks. But perhaps the most important thing to note about the software is that at first glance, it has much more of that nebulous "Windows XP feel" than Vista ever did." <http://news.cnet.com/windows-7-beta-first-impressions/> by Renai LeMay, 1/7/09



companies have fraud-prevention systems that work. Chase's, AmEx's and BofA's computers figured out fairly quickly that it wasn't me making all of these purchases and put the kibosh on further transactions. That's reassuring. What's not reassuring is the ease with which the thief was able to pass himself off as me at major retailers. Cashiers are instructed simply to check the signature for any purchase against the signature on the back of the card. A Master card spokesman emphasized that customers weren't liable

for fraudulent purchases, so there's no need for an ID check. Some fraud victims might find peace of mine in signing up for a credit-monitoring service, which can cost more than \$100 a year. Check your free credit reports, and buy yourself a good lock for the gym." Press

Democrat 1/30/2009 p. B5

•*Tips to avoid malware:* "Prevention is the best cure. (1) Keep your definitions and subscriptions up-to-date. (2) Pay attention to every installation. (3) If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. (4) If you don't know the source, delete. Strangers online almost never have anything valuable to offer." Smart Computing, March, 2009, p. 61 .

**TIP. Versions of software definitions:** Release candidate (RC1 and/or RC2) is a pre-release version of software to selected customers. There are alpha versions (internal – first test in laboratory settings), beta versions (external – available to public), release candidates (sometimes) and the final release of software. These prereleases are like 'sneak previews' of the final release with the added advantage that serious bugs may yet surface and be fixed before the general public uses it.

[http://www.pcmag.com/encyclopedia\\_term/0,2542,t=release+candidate&i=50384,00.asp](http://www.pcmag.com/encyclopedia_term/0,2542,t=release+candidate&i=50384,00.asp)

## •*Consumer Confidential – First-hand experience –*

"Incidents of identity theft and credit card fraud are apparently on the rise as bad economic times bring out the worst in some people. 'The author of this article



gives a story of how fast the identity theft of his wallet while he was at a gym took place.

They observed him using his lock and subsequently used it themselves.' I'll be the

first to acknowledge that banks and credit card



Happy Valentine's Day and Happy President's Day



#### 4. Internet -Web sites: (If these don't work, let me know - Editor Donna)

Set up Email – [http://ask-leo.com/how do i set up an email address for my son on my computer.html](http://ask-leo.com/how_do_i_set_up_an_email_address_for_my_son_on_my_computer.html)

Free Photo Editing Programs - Picasa, PaintNET, XnView, and GIMP

Salaries in your area – <http://salary.com>

Information on great books – <http://bartleby.com>

Gmail – offline e-mail access - [http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939\\_109-10151096-2.html?tag=nl.e776](http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939_109-10151096-2.html?tag=nl.e776)

Financial tips - <http://simplifiedollar.com>

Windows XP, Vista or Windows 7? - [http://reviews.cnet.com/4002-7600\\_7-6956580.html?tag=nl.e497](http://reviews.cnet.com/4002-7600_7-6956580.html?tag=nl.e497)

Internet Explorer 8 – <http://windowsnewsletter.com/currentissue.html> RC1

Best Email Program ever – Gmail - <http://www.slate.com/id/2210090/paagenum/all/>

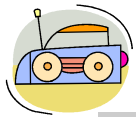
Cloud Computing – collaborate online - <http://www.writeboard.com>

FrontPage News – Online – <http://newseum.com>

New Google Earth 5 Beta - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSuJq4UzkIA> Thanks to Nolan Dehner

\*\*\*\*\* Favorite Web Sites: What is yours? Let me know and I'll include it\*\*\*\*\*

**5. Internet Radio** – Many ways to access it. (1) Open Windows Media Player, click on Players Taskbar and then click on Internet Radio. You can 'Select More Stations' and then pick a type of music and then click on play and away it goes. Make sure your speakers are on. Then minimize the window and you will have a



mini-menu on your taskbar and you can go on with your computer work or housework. (2) Go to a web page such as

<http://www.live365.com> and select genre and

click to play. (3) Go to actual station such as <http://www.KRCB.org> or (4) go to <http://OTR.net> for any old time radio show. *Ed note: I'm new at this so hope this is clear.*

**6. Today's Program** –Arianne Eskew, Consultant, Ariannes' Computer Service discussed/demonstrated today "Backups, How, When and Why" Thanks to Arianne for sharing her expertise.



**7. Speakers for 2009** - We have a tentative schedule for User Group speakers for the coming year. We still have some gaps. Who do you want on the agenda next year? Let us know – Donna or any of the Board members.

**8. Toolbars** in IE are installed applications. In Windows XP, click Start>Control Panel. Double-click Add or Remove Programs.

**9. Computer Help – Drop in** - People can drop by the Senior Center, first come/first serve, and will receive one/one opportunity to get their problems, questions,

projects addressed: *No preregistration – Donation*

February 23, 2009, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

March 23, 2009, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

#### 10. Next meeting of User's Group

All senior computer enthusiasts are invited to join us. This informal gathering shares ideas, resources and networks:



**March 9th, 2008** *No preregistration*

1:00 – 2:00 pm General questions/answers

2:00 -4:00 pm - Program - Kathleen Palmer &

John Essman of Sonoma Connection will discuss/demonstrate "Website Design and Internet Marketing". We are very fortunate to have such knowledgeable people for our presentation.

#### 11. Upcoming Workshops –

**Hands-On Computer Workshops –**

Part 1 – Word Processing A to Z - 3/16/09 – 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Part 2 – Word Processing A to Z – 4/20/09 – 1:00 – 4:00 pm.

See Town's Winter /Spring Recreation Bulletin for details.

**If you have questions**, please call me (home 838-4737), (e-mail: [wscugrdonna@gmail.com](mailto:wscugrdonna@gmail.com) or [donna@sonic.net](mailto:donna@sonic.net)) or you can call the Senior Center 838-1250 for dates/times of computer events. See <http://www.sonic.net/donna/windsor.html> for Computer Info Windsor Sr. Computer User Group



**This is your User's Group - What are your goals? Help to make this group what you want it to be.**

"Life is like a roll of toilet paper: the closer you get to the end, the faster it goes." *Andy Rooney*

*Have Fun Computing & Take Time to Smell the Roses*