

SESSION # 8 - NOTES

UPDATES AND UPGRADES YOU SHOULD HAVE:

Vista - Service Pack 1 (SP 1)

XP - Service Pack 3 (SP 3)

MS Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel, PowerPoint

All available in one package at the MS Download Center

SpyBot Search & Destroy v. 1.5.2

Available at www.safe-networking.org

AdAware 2007

Available at www.lavasoft.com

Adobe Reader v. 8.1.2

Available at www.adobe.com

PROGRAMS YOU MIGHT WANT TO HAVE:

Internet Explorer 7. The bugs are out and this version offers better protection.

Windows Media Player 11. The latest version from Microsoft.

Both available at the MS Download Center

Gmail from Google - A free email program that does not put the emails onto your computer. Gives you enough space so that you will never have to delete another message. Has great spam blocking and virus protection.

Available at Google.com

AN AVAILABLE UPDATE WHICH YOU MAY NOT WANT:

Internet Explorer 8. There are problems reported with this latest version and you may want to wait on upgrading until the bugs are worked out of version 8.

ANOTHER UPDATE YOU MAY NOT WANT:

Microsoft has announced that it will support Windows XP through 2014. With this announcement it raises the question as to whether one should upgrade to Vista, or remain with XP. Unless one has a "burning desire" or a need to upgrade, and if you are happy with XP, it just may not make sense to upgrade.

BACK-UP

A "flash drive" offers a simple method of backing up.

Back-up, at a minimum, financial data, email addresses, Favorites, pictures you can not afford to lose. And, yes, you can password protect flash drives, and even use encryption software.

Additional back-up info can be found on B & B SIG notes, session #3 - 2007

SCREEN SAVER -- Do you use a screen saver ? Would you be disappointed if I told you that a screen saver neither "saves" your screen, nor does it save power. In the days of monochrome monitors screen savers were used to stop a "burning in" effect on the monitor screen. But today's LCD's, and even CRT's, are not affected with the "burning in" problem. Therefore, if you have a nice screen saver that you want to use, go ahead, but keep in mind the above info.

REDUCING POWER AND WEAR AND TEAR -- If you find that you have periods of time when you are not at your computer, and you do not physically turn off your computer, you may want to consider setting your power management options to automatically turn off your monitor and your hard drives, or even put the computer (normally available only on a laptop) into the "standby" or "hibernation" mode.

MONITORS AND HARD DRIVES -- You can set the time you want these to shut down, after sitting idle, by going to (in Win XP) **START >> CONTROL PANEL >> DISPLAY** and then click on the **SCREEN SAVER** tab and then on the **ADVANCED** button. When the **POWER OPTIONS PROPERTIES** screen displays you will have the option to set times for the monitor and hard drive(s). You may also have the option to select to set the system to **STANDBY** or **HIBERNATE**. In Vista go to **CONTROL PANEL >> POWER OPTIONS** and in the left hand panel select **CHOOSE WHEN TO TURN OFF THE DISPLAY** and then select the time.

STANDBY mode -- saves your current work to memory and puts your computer into power saving state. Returns to normal by wiggling your mouse or tap any key.

HIBERNATION mode -- saves all of your current work that is in memory to the hard drive and puts the computer into a "deeper sleep". When you turn the computer back on (a simple push on the power button) the computer returns you to where you were on the desktop.

SHUT DOWN, or DON'T SHUT DOWN -- You can find arguments for both. If your computer is programmed to run specific functions during the night naturally you do not want to shut down your computer. On the other hand, if your computer just sits idle all night long the "big kids" say that you should shut it down when you are done using it for the day. Consider this: hard drives spin at 5,400 revolutions per minute, with the newer drives spinning at 7,200 rpm's. This means that your hard drive goes around at least 7,776,000 times each 24 hours. Want your hard

drive to last longer? It simply makes sense to shut it down when you are not using it, or you are through for the day. Personally, if I am going to be away from my computer, or not use it for a couple of hours, I shut it totally down.

CD's, DVD's & BLU-RAY

As you are probably aware the new standard for recording information on disk is the Blu-Ray format pioneered by Sony. This will shortly replace CD's & DVD's. If you are thinking of purchasing a DVD player you should consider the Blu-Ray format. Blu-Ray players are a little pricy at this point in time, but they should come down in price as the market moves to this new format. What happens to your old CD's & DVD's? Well, actually nothing. For the most part, the new Blu-Ray players will play all three types of disks. But, if you purchase a new Blu-Ray player check to be sure that it will do that. The advantage of the new Blu-Ray format is that it will store more data on the same size disk, and it will give you a higher quality image. Curiously, Blu-Ray gets its name from the fact that this new format uses a laser beam that is a "blue ray". And, by the way, if you have kids or grandkids who have the Sony Play Station game box, you already have a Blu-Ray machine in your family. Blu-Ray is the "future", and the "future" is here.

OPEN INTERNET EXPLORER TO A FULL WINDOW

Have you had, or do you have the problem that when you open up Internet Explorer it does not open up into a full screen? You can rectify this simply by "grabbing" the top and side edges of the screen and pull them as far open as you want. The next time you open the program it will fill the screen to the size that you have set.

HAVE TWO INTERNET EXPLORERS OPEN AT THE SAME TIME

There may be times when you are visiting a website and you would like to keep it open but you want to visit another website. Well, you can do that. Depending on how much ram you have installed on your computer you can open two, three or more Int. Explorers at the same time. And, an easy way to do this is to simply hold down the CONTROL key and push the "N" key at the same time. The same website that you are currently visiting will open again. But, you can then choose a different site from your "favorites list" or type in a URL address. To go between the two sites simply click on other site shown on the Task Bar, or click ALT-TAB.