

LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE PC CLUB NEWSLETTER

www.thepcclub.org

March 2013

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MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

7:00 p.m

Clubhouse 7



The Best of Google



What's the best feature on Google's website - maps, earth, docs, calendar, books, music, YouTube, Gmail, search???

It depends on who you ask!

We all know Google as a site rich in resources - attend this meeting to find out what our presenters say *they can't live without.*



All Laguna Woods residents are welcome!

Prize Drawing (only members are eligible) and Refreshments
If you don't drive at night, Night Bus Service
is available - call 597-4659.

President's Corner

It's now been just about 4 ½ months since the release of Microsoft's latest OS, **Windows 8**. Almost immediately Microsoft required that retail stores discontinue selling PCs with Windows 7 preinstalled*. Some hardware manufacturers (Dell, HP, Lenovo, Gateway, etc.) with a large inventory were able to sell it from their websites for a limited period of time. We're well aware that those of you who purchased a new PC since then (or received one as a gift) are facing many new learning challenges. We're getting numerous questions about offering a Windows 8 class in our upcoming session, or in the near future.

Here's the story –

- ◆ We have rarely jumped right on the bandwagon when Microsoft releases a new OS (or software in general) and this time is no exception. We will wait for a reasonable period while they do some fine tuning, eliminate bugs, etc., and while we accomplish related items that will allow us to move forward. That includes training for Supervisory staff and potential instructors, which will be handled by the experts at the Microsoft Store in Mission Viejo. Additionally, we will need to purchase 20+ copies of Windows 8, complete the installation, and work out any bugs on our hardware or software that are created by our procedure which, at this time, is expected to be setting up the Learning Center PCs for “dual boot.” This means that Windows 7 *will remain* on the PCs and Windows 8 will be added to a new partition we create on the HDD.
- ◆ For now we have added Windows 8 to two of the Workshop PCs. You are welcome to explore and practice on these until the above steps are completed; we will eventually add more Windows 8 PCs to our Workshop.
- ◆ A limited number of Staff is reasonably comfortable and knowledgeable with Windows 8 already - plus, we plan to offer the Microsoft training for Staff in the next 30-60 days.

We're trying to upgrade and improve the Education Programs we offer to all our residents. A new Chair has been selected for this function, **Nancy Kring**, whom you may well know as our Registrar up to this point. She has ambitious plans to add new courses including short “Drop-in” classes. This will require finding new Instructors in some cases, so please let her know if you have an interest (njkring@comline.com). As a lifelong learner, we'd be happy to know what subjects interest you - so again, let Nancy hear from you.

In addition, we intend to offer SIGs on a more regular basis. That plan is underway now – Introduction to Linux is next on the calendar which will be Saturday, March 23, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon in the Learning Center. Registration is online only (see below). Our email address for any SIG registration is - pcworkshop10@gmail.com. Complete details for the Linux session are in the Workshop or on our Website: www.thepcclub.org.

Finally, you may know that Anne Clark conducted the Facebook Class on March 2nd and three more sessions are scheduled: March 29th, April 5th, and April 12th (choose only one).

*As recently as yesterday (March 6) I found the Windows 7 OS (new retail box/DVD) on both **Amazon** and **Newegg** (the former Egghead retail stores website). Many sellers offer it on **eBay** as well.

Bob Sellards, President

Windows 8 - The Basics

By Howard Lewis, Program Coordinator, Midland Computer Club, MI
January 2013 issue, Bits and Bytes Newsletter

With Microsoft's release of Windows 8, there are a number of significant changes in the interface. Many people say that this is the biggest difference in the Windows interface since the release of Windows 95 in 1995 (which is forever in the world of technology). Part of the rationale for the change in the interface is to make a consistent interface between PCs, laptops, tablets, smartphones, etc. With this article, I will introduce some of the major concepts in the Windows 8 interface and will delve into some of the basic usage issues.

Knowing that many of the current applications are desktop specific, Microsoft has two different types of interfaces built into Windows 8. The primary interface is the Start screen which is shown when Windows 8 is first started (Figure 1).

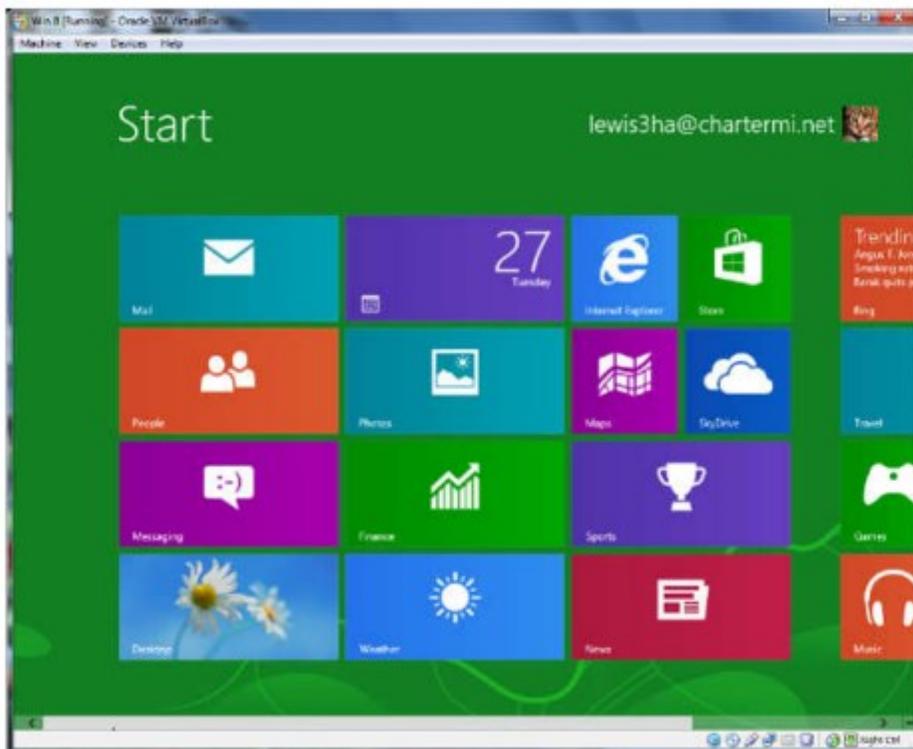


Figure 1 – Windows 8 Start Screen

The Start screen contains Tiles which will launch Windows 8 specific apps. One of the unique things about these tiles is that they can be “live”. In other words, if you have a weather app running in Windows 8, the current temperature for a specific location will be displayed live. The same will be true of stock, sports scores, news, etc. The interface is designed for a touch interface, but can easily be navigated with a keyboard and mouse. The second interface is the Desktop screen (Figure 2). The Desktop screen looks (and is) very much like the very familiar Windows 7 interface. The one major difference is that the Start menu is missing (replaced by the Start screen).



Figure 2 - Windows 8 Desktop Screen

Almost all applications that have run under Windows versions since Windows XP will run in this mode. Most current Windows users will feel very much like they are working in Windows XP, Vista, or Windows 7. At this point, I probably spend 80% of my time in the Desktop. The default Start screen tiles include a tile (lower left Tile in Figure 1) to directly access Desktop mode for easy access. Any Windows applications not designed for Windows 8 will automatically run in Desktop mode. The major changes (and focus of this article) is the Start screen.

Those who are familiar with smartphones and using a touch device will probably have no problem navigating the Start screen interface. The problem is for those of us who are desktop- or laptop-centric. If you are using a mouse, the key focal points should be the corners of the screen.

Both the upper-right and lower-right corners bring up what is called the Charms bar (Figure 3) and it will be located on the right side of the screen. This bar includes Search, Share, Start, Devices, and Settings. All of these things were incorporated into the Start menu on previous versions of Windows. The Charms bar is available from both the Start screen and the Desktop.



Fig. 3
Charms Bar

The upper-left corner brings up the App Switcher bar (Figure 4). This bar will be located on the left side of the screen. The App Switcher displays all apps that are currently running in either the Start screen or the Desktop and makes it easy to switch between various apps. The lower-left corner will allow you to switch between the Desktop and Start screens. The App Switcher is only available from the Start screen.



Fig.4
App Switcher

When you are on the Start screen or in a Windows 8 app, there are two other bars of interest, one at the top of the screen and one at the bottom. One or both of these bars will appear when you right-click in an app or on a tile. Both of these bars are app/Tile specific, but in certain apps the top bar is called the Places bar (Figure 5) and the bottom one is referred to as the App Menu (Figure 6).



Figure 5 - Places

The Places bar allows you to specify information specific to an app, whereas the App Menu allows you to specify certain properties for a tile or app. All of these bars are dynamic and change depending on the focal point of Window 8.

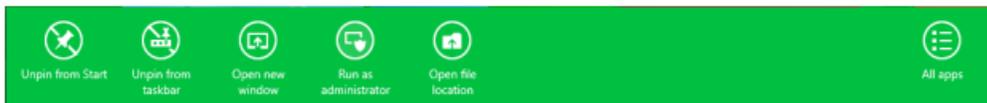


Figure 6 – App Menu

A couple of other important points that have perplexed various users. Windows 8 was originally designed for the computer to not normally Shutdown and therefore would not be turned off. Most modern devices (tables, smartphones, etc.) run using very low power processors, so they can run for 10+ hours without being connected to power, plus they also go to sleep very easily to conserve battery. Many people from the desktop/laptop world are used to turning their computers off periodically and will want to continue to do Shutdowns. To accomplish this, simply go to the Charms bar, Settings, Power. From here you can shut down or restart the computer.

Another frequent question is how to close a Windows 8 app (Desktop apps close in the normal manner by clicking the “x” in the upper-right corner of the window). Most Windows 8 apps are designed to run in the background at all times, much like an iPad, etc. Since Windows 8 apps don’t have an ”x” in the upper-right corner to close the app, you close the app by taking the cursor to the top edge of the screen where the cursor will change to a hand. Now click and drag to the bottom of the screen. This will close the app.



COMPUTER CLASSES

Registration for Computer Classes is **Saturday, March 16**, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., and **Monday, March 18**, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, at the **PC Learning Center**. Classes may be **paid for by check only** (no cash accepted).

The following classes will be offered:

- Power Point Photo Projects*** (5 weeks)
- Creating Digital Photo Books*** (5 weeks)
- Introduction to Windows 7*** (4 weeks)
- Intermediate Windows 7*** (4 weeks)
- Computer System Maintenance*** (3 weeks)
- Introduction to Picasa*** (5 weeks)
- Intermediate Internet and Email*** (5 weeks)
- Windows 7 & Internet in Korean Language*** (4 weeks)
- Facebook*** (1 week only)



More information is available in the PC Workshop or by visiting our website, www.thepcclub.org.

Information for SIGs and Walk-in Classes will be found in the usual places when available: The *Globe*, Channel 6, the PC Workshop, and on our website, www.thepcclub.org.



Loss of a Long-time Staff Member

For about as long as anyone can remember, Julius Zuckerman has been showing up at the Workshop on Tuesdays and Thursdays to assist residents with problems. He had a vast knowledge base, coupled with determination (also known as good old fashioned stubbornness), to resolve many different types of hardware and software problems. He amazed many of us by adapting (although not without considerable grumbling) to countless new versions of software, email improvements, and, of course, at least five Windows OS releases. Those who knew him well know that he specialized in printers. I don't think he ever met a printer that he couldn't diagnose and repair – if it was repairable.

Unfortunately (for us), Julius decided that his personal well-being should now come ahead of his love of the technical wisdom he had acquired and the joy of being a part of our operation. Understandably though, he removed himself from his role in early February; early this week he moved to Chicago to be near his son's family. We understand he's found a good living arrangement in a setting similar to our nearby Villa Valencia or Freedom Village. Julius' countless "customers," friends, and fellow-staff wish him an abundance of good times, good health, and good luck going forward. He leaves a very special legacy behind in the Village and with those of us in the PC Club who knew him. Thanks for everything Julius!

WEST COAST INTERNET

Did you know????

West Coast Internet's lowest fee (\$21.80 per month) provides you with Internet service at 3 MBPS down, 1 MBPS up, but there are two faster speeds available at a higher fee:

8 MBPS down, 2 MBPS up	\$35.85/month
15 MBPS down, 3 MBPS up	\$45.95/month

If you wish to subscribe at a higher speed, just call West Coast Internet at 949-487-3302 (Sales).

A helpful article on understanding internet speed (download and upload): <http://broadband.about.com/od/speedissues/a/Broadband-Internet-Speeds-Explained.htm>

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Carol Abraham
Ken Ao
Maria Azzarone
Margaret Bandak
Yanhua Bao
Paul Bartlomain
Betty Batenburg
Gavino Bautista
Gail Berra
Sandra Blair
David Blodgett
Mahvash Borhani
Jean Branham
Maggie Brown
Catherine Chang
Jeong Ja Cho
Sung Hwan Cho
Henry H Choi
Seon Ui Choi
Sunny J Y Choi
Yoon J Chung
E J Daugherty
Evelyne David
Joan DeLucie
Diane Duray
John Edmiston
Cecelia Fong
Peter Fong
Sharon Fratilla
Faina Gankin
John Gee
Hormoz Ghaznavi
Carole Anne Gillespie
Suzanne Glantz
Eric Goldman
Miriam Goldsmith
Hwan B Han
Richard Hawkins
Harvey Hefley
Hal Horne
Shari Horne

Geri Horton
Vince Howley
William Humphrey
Benji Johnson
Greg Jones
Lucy Jones
Huo Ja Jun
Jung Sook Jun
Kyung H Jun
Elizabeth Karner
Ben H Kim
Choon Kon Kim
Chung Y Kim
Eun Hwa Kim
In J Kim
Jong Ja Kim
Jung Ja Kim
Katherine Kim
Kwan Chae Kim
Nam Soon Kim
Sung Hee Kim
Yvonne Kim
Manfred Koppitsch
David Lachey
Grace Lee
Hee S Lee
Kai Lee
Kyu Jo Lee
Tak Lee
Ivy Leiter
Norman Leiter
Marion H Levine
Mardella J Levy
Mark Licha
James Marengo
Pat McClintock
Barbara Metselaar
Brenda Miller
Lance Miller
Ramiro Montecinos
Charles W Moore

Gan Mukhopadhyay
Victoria Mullins
Judith Tangredi Murad
Mee Ja Myung
Phil Naideth
Bernard Novack
Carole Osman
Martin Osman
Raymond Ouellette
Lucy Parker
Usha Parmar
Johnny Pong
Alfred Preli
Roger Preuss
Jenny Qiu
Patricia Romine
Terry Ryan
Linda Sage
Murray Samuels
Michele Sandacz
Rose Sawh
Edward Schluntz
Hassan Shahiari
Azam Smith
Chuck Snyder
Evelyn M Spiess
Sydney Stephan
Dare Tepper
Murray Threadgill
Chul Thu
Erzsebet Vigh
Dale Warnke
Roberta Watkins
Jean Anne Willenbring
Joseph Yang
Barney Zaffron
Janet Zaffron
Bette Zahayko
Joan Zaremba

BENEFITS OF PC CLUB MEMBERSHIP*

- ◆ Informative [free] monthly meetings. . . eligibility for door prizes!
- ◆ Newsletters geared to Senior PC users [free and first via email]
- ◆ Discount on PC classes
- ◆ Representation at the national Senior's Computer User Groups Association
- ◆ Access to Club's Lending Library of Computer Books, Manuals, and PC Magazines
- ◆ Periodic special classes just for Members
- ◆ First to receive any new, useful information [emailed periodically]
- ◆ First to know of events involving other Village Technology Clubs: Camera, Video, and Macintosh
- ◆ Free [bring-it-in] technical support for your PC or printer
- ◆ Members' dues allow us to maintain a state-of-the-art workshop and learning center!

*Best \$10.00 you'll spend for any Village Club Membership . . . for what you get!

LWVPC Club (Laguna Woods Village PC Club) \$10 (expires December 31, 2013)

MEMBERSHIP FORM (Please Print *Clearly*)

Must be a resident of Laguna Woods Village

Date _____ Cash ___ Check No. _____ Check one: New Member ___ Renewal ___

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Phone _____

Address (LWV Address) _____ Unit _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

Email Address (please print clearly) _____

Please make \$10 check payable to PC Club

Place check in Membership Mailbox in Workshop (3rd floor Admin. Bldg.)

Or mail to LWVPC Club, Attn: Robin, Membership, P.O. Box 3063, Laguna HILLS, CA 92654

Non-Profit

Laguna Woods Village PC Club

Your PC Club is a non-profit organization, dedicated to helping residents improve their computer skills, and get more enjoyment from their computers.

Section 501(c) (3), Tax ID 42-1645625