



Bear covered a plethora of topics in the short 2 hours we had to conduct the meeting.

He showed those who use Vista the versatile Snipping Tool. It's a built-in utility that allows the user to 'snip' all, or a portion, of the display to use elsewhere.

The print screen function gives you a picture of the active portion of your Desktop. The snipping tool lets you make a selection in rectangle, square or freehand. You can save it to the clipboard or any other Windows application from which you can do with it as you see fit, i.e. send it via email, crop it to emphasize the point of interest, etc.

Bear then went on to Bing© the latest evolution of the search engine from Microsoft. Compared to other search engines, the speed is equivalent but Microsoft markets it as a 'decision tool'. Once you do a search the engine gives you options to make sure you find the information you are looking for in the least amount of time.

Bing© evolved from Windows Live, which evolved to Live and now has a new name, Bing.

The most visible difference from Google is Bing's home page. Each day there is a different picture with at least four hot spots (links) embedded. The hot spots tell you a bit about the subject picture and has links to maps and more detailed

information.

In the lower right hand corner of the picture you can click to see the previous picture. If you can't figure out what, or where, you are looking at, hover over the Copyright symbol to get a brief description.

We discussed the use of Plug-ins and Add-ons. They are one and the same. It's a computer program that interacts with a host application. Some examples are internet browsers and email programs.

A number of them are free and enhance the browsing experience. Most are written by third-party companies that want you to use and maybe buy another one of their products.

A couple of examples:

Adobe (Macromedia) Flash Player is software for viewing animations and movies using computer programs such as a web browser.

Java is programming software that lets you view Java applets no matter which operating system you are running.

Ron Harris led us to Bingle—a combination of the words Bing and Google. Go to

[HTTP://BINGLE.PWNIJ.COM/](http://BINGLE.PWNIJ.COM/)

And type in something to search for, the result is a split screen comparison of results between Bing and Google.



Bear listening to a question

The folks at Bingle marry up the two search result

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pages from both and then display them in a split screen fashion. The larger your display area, the better for you to see. You also have the option of making Bingle your home page, but it is as plain to look at as Google.

Some folks wanted to know how to make a specific page their "home" page. Easy, here are the steps for IE and Firefox.

Internet Explorer—first thing you must do, to keep from having to type in the URL of your favorite page, is to open it. Then, click on Tools on the menu (at the right side), select Internet Options from the drop down menu.

Under the General tab and in the first panel title Home Page, click on the Use Current button. Click on Apply and your next opening should go to the page you have selected.

Tools, Options, Main

Firefox—On the Menu, click on Tools, Options and the Main tab. Again, have your desired page open and click on Use Current Page and OK.

Fun and informative meeting (as always when conducted by a member). Speaking of members, Aloha to our newest—Janet Ng.

Welcome to the Group Janet.

And thanks to John Harms, our official photographer for Bear's profile pic.

Aloha,



Jim

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BCC: - SEE?



Are you guilty of spreading SPAM??? Gmail does a pretty good job of sorting it out, I have a screen shot of my spam folder before cleaning it out on the website.

I get several hundred a day so this is a light load as it's a Sunday as I write this. So, do you help spread SPAM? Read on, you may be surprised!

I have lost count over the years, of the times I have sent the following "*Sins of the Internet*" info (author unknown) to friends, family, business associates, sometimes even to someone I don't know that has sent me a spam message. If they were all this cute you wouldn't mind, right? Unfortunately, many are not and as I covered in my previous column, they can result in some serious

problems including the big, bad one...identity theft. So, you took my previous advice and now you own the worlds' best collection of impossible to crack passwords! Great, but how are you doing on email etiquette? Lots of articles appear every week written by some of the top computer gurus who have syndicated columns that are read all over the country (and world, in some cases.) I could add all my pet peeves and perhaps cover some even the big fellows don't hear much about, but rather than do a list, I'll rely on each of you to read one or more of those columns, the next time you see one...or if you're really ambitious, try out bing.com and do a search for email etiquette...that will keep you occupied for a long while.

But, back to the question and a specific part of it...are you helping the spammers? Yikes, me help one of those @#\$%^...no way José. OK, I hope you are right, but please, take the time to read what follows and if necessary, change the way you treat your next multi-address email. To help out those who may need it, I have included, at the web site, a few screenshots of some of the more popular email programs and where to find the Bcc: switch.

Sins of The Internet: Not Using Bcc

This is a little known yet very important issue on the web. Many good people commit this every day without knowing that there is an alternative, and without having any understanding of the very real damage that they are com-

mitting.

How many times have you received or sent an email with an address like this:

To: You@anywhere.com

Cc: Yourfriend@noone.org; Myfriend@anyplace.com;

Looks fine, doesn't it? Except for some simple facts. By including email addresses in the Cc: field you are inadvertently helping spammers. Even worse you are violating the basic privacy of everyone to whom you have sent the message. In fact, in the worst case, you may have put all of these people in danger. Huh? How can this be? This is just a simple email!

Let's say you send this email to twenty friends. Each of those

friends will receive the email addresses of you and all twenty of your friends. All of those email addresses will be conveniently listed at the top of the message for everyone to see.

If one of your so-called friends is actually a spammer, you've just given him the email addresses of nineteen other people. He can add those to his lists and send spam messages to all of them. Even worse, these are very valuable email addresses, as they are confirmed and known to be good. They can actually be sold to some spammers for a fair amount of money!

Okay, let's say your friends are all fine, upstanding people who do not spam, you have still put all twenty people in danger. How?

Email is not private by any means. In fact, your message will wind up on at least a couple of machines by the time you read it, and might actually find it way to thousands of them!

Don't believe me? I worked as a consultant for a company several years ago.

One day one of my fellow co-workers called me over to his system and asked me to look at something, a wide grin on his face. He had been working on our clients email system to fix a problem and accidentally listed out the email message file. He showed me a series of several hundred very explicit emails that two employees had been sending to each other for months! These

(continues on page 3)

(Continued from page 2) **BCC:**

two people would have been very embarrassed, I am sure, if they ever found out that we read every detail of their love affair - it was extremely x-rated in places!

So you see, your email may actually be read by anyone at any of those systems at any time! Thus, by including all of the addresses in the "cc:" field, you can easily give them away to spammers.

Now, here is the dangerous part. What if it's not a spammer who gets this message, but someone dangerous? There are many people on the internet (as in the real world) who are not so nice. Someone could send threatening messages to your friends. They could pretend they were you, or they could forward your message to other unscrupulous people.

Okay, that's the problem. Yet you want to send your message to several people! How do you do so without compromising the privacy of everyone else?

That's easy. You see, your email program has a special capability called Blind Carbon Copy (Bcc: for short). This allows you to enter the email addresses of anyone you want, without sending all of the addresses to everyone else on the list.



Lou Torraca

It's basically a way to send a copy to someone without telling anyone else that you did it. This is commonly used in a corporate environment to send a copy to some-

one who needs to know without alarming the rest of the people who receive the message. For example, I might want to let the Vice President know about an issue, but I may not want everyone else to know that I clued him in (in an office, copying senior management tends to produce office politics very quickly as everyone scrambles to protect their behinds).

Sometimes email programs hide this option. To find it, just go to the help and look for "Bcc:" or "blind carbon copy". The help will tell you how to turn it on. Usually there is some option to show the Bcc: field directly under the Cc: field.

That's a wrap for now, please let me know if I can help u stay out of trouble out there and hopefully you will now be keeping the bad guys from sending their SPAM to anyone in your address book!

Aloha,

Lou



PS—Screen shots on how to make the settings for various email programs are listed on the Around Town website. Click on the link at the bottom of this page.

But, for those of you who don't like to use the Help feature or are just too impatient to look any farther, here are some quick tips for you.

Outlook Express, click on view and select All Headers

Outlook 2007, when you click on options Show Bcc shows on the left alongside Show From

MS Mail (Vista) Select View and click on show all fields
 IncrediMail, Click on View and select Show"Bcc" Field



For those of you who didn't attend the last TUG meeting, Bear passed out a mini-survey sheet asking questions that are pertinent to the future program (and maybe the future of) The TUG group.

Simple, easy-to-answer questions like, which browser do you use; which operating system (OS) do you have; what program do you use for email; what program do you use mostly, and a few others.

Bear is going to use the answers to build a programming schedule for future meetings. Without your input we have not a clue as to what interests you in the computer arena.

Help us help you. See Bear at the Oct. meeting and ask to "fill in the blanks" on his survey form.

Your assistance in this manner will be greatly appreciated by all concerned.



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You can read the rest of this and all of President Lou's on-line columns by going to Oceanic's Around Town at <http://tinyurl.com/363qew>

Try fixing it yourself!!

Each issue I try to come up with a topic for this page of the newsletter that I think will be entertaining, as well as, educational. I'm not sure how successful I have been over the years, but you have to give me an A for effort.

This month, however, I thought I'd air some 'dirty laundry', as it were, about some unnamed friends and former customers that transpired over the 16 years I had the business open.

As you know, I closed my business in Dec, 2007 but I continue to get calls for assistance from former customers who have become friends over the years. If you provide a decent service, people tend to start referring to you as a friend, rather than that #S@^ computer guy.

Now, don't get me wrong, I appreciate the good sentiments and the many referrals and I won't disclose any identities or distinguishing marks that would give away the persons name and none of these are TUG members.

Several years ago I had a guy call me to complain that he couldn't see the type on his monitor. He could see the cursor moving when he typed something, but nothing came out on the screen. Turns out he had changed the font color to white and we all know that Microsoft Word has a white background. And no, he had never used WordPerfect. (It had a blue background and white text). This very nice kind man is deceased, so I hope he is writing with white on the clear blue sky where he is able to see everything.

Another call, I think in 2003, resulted in a house call by me to figure out why a notebook would turn on, last about 3 minutes and

then turn off. The problem was, the owner had the notebook plugged directly into a power strip, positioned on the desk in such a way that if you pushed a 3-ring notebook against it or something similar in size it would depress the power switch and turn off the power strip. End result was that the notebook battery was not being recharged and therefore, wouldn't stay on. A simple repositioning of the power strip (putting a dictionary under it) solved the problem.

Just recently I received a call from a friend who said his mouse wouldn't work. He stated "All the connections" are where they are supposed to be and "It was working last night before I turned off the computer."

After asking a few questions I was able to determine the connections he was referring to were the power cord, the monitor cord and the printer cable. His mouse is cordless. I suggested he replace the batteries. He did and everything returned to normal.

During our conversation he said, "I can start the computer, but can't do anything without the mouse." I asked if he had pressed the Windows logo key. (*Insert pregnant pause here.*) "Err, Windows key?" Yes, the one with the flag logo on the lower left. Once he did that he was able to use the arrow keys to move around and restart the computer as well.

You folks know about the Windows key, right?

Yet another call before I closed the business was from a Type A personality. Successful, and retired, businessman about not being able to print. The customer insisted that I come over right now to fix

his d**n printer. I was able to fit him in the next day.

Seemingly, in his haste to replace an ink-jet cartridge to print out his latest letter to the editor, or whatever, he had neglected to remove the film strip on the cartridge that protects the copper portion that makes contact with the electrical connections within the printer. I charged him the full rate \$75, no discount. I don't like pushy people. He was embarrassed, but pleased that he was able to print. Lesson learned.

While typing this, I realized that this may be educational to some. Instead of reaching for the phone for assistance, maybe you can take the time to stop and think, "Now why could/would/should that happen?" Troubleshoot it yourself and use the money you saved to buy more computer stuff. We all need more stuff, right? George Carlin proved that to us. See you at the next TUG?

Aloha,

Jim

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