

THE PRINTER

Chesapeake PC Users Group, Inc.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Welcome Back!

I hope everyone had a great summer. There's a lot of exciting things to look forward to this season. With new hardware and operating systems coming out, this should prove to be one of the most exciting periods for PCs in quite a while.

September 9th Meeting – Windows 7 RTM (Release to Manufacturers)

Windows 7 RTM was released to TechNet and MSDN subscribers on August 6th with the official retail release is set for October 22nd. This will be the first of many full meetings on this new operating system.

October 14th Meeting – Windows Live Movie Maker 2009

Michael Alloy will give all of us the first look at Microsoft's latest and greatest version of the ever popular Movie Maker software.

November 11th Meeting – LapWorks, Inc.

LapWorks, Inc. manufactures a variety of "desks" for laptops. These accessories have been designed to ergonomically enhance the use of your laptop, and also improve laptop cooling. There will be some freebies involved. This first in a series of PIAB (Presentations in a Box) from our friends at APCUG.

Michael



Show Schedules

Date	Venue	City	State
September 12-13	Maryland State Fairgrounds,	Timonium	MD
September 19-20	Maryland City Plaza,	Laurel	MD
September 26-27	Capital Club House - Waldorf Marketplace,	Waldorf	MD
October 03-04	Maryland State Fairgrounds,	Timonium	MD
October 10-11	Rosecroft Raceway,	Ft. Washington	MD
October 17-18	Dulles Expo Center,	Chantilly	VA

As a service to our members, I will attempt to publish the current schedule for computer shows in our immediate area. For additional information & to print the \$\$ OFF coupon go to:

<http://www.marketproshows.com/computershows/citySearch.php>

Part IV: Windows 7 - cont'd

- Default Location, which can be used to store your zip code, country/region, and latitude and longitude for use when there is no location sensor such as a GPS receiver attached to the computer Display, which allows a choice between Smaller, Medium, and Larger sizes for text and other items to make the screen easier to read
- HomeGroup, which is the new way of sharing data and other resources in a home network environment
- Notification Area Icons, which allows control of which icons and notification messages appear in the Notification Area of the Taskbar
- RemoteApp and Desktop Connections, which allows you to connect to desktops and programs at your work-place; this takes the place of the Remote Desktop and Remote Assistance capabilities of Windows Vista and XP
- System Icons, which allows control of the following icons and notifications in the Notification Area of the Taskbar: Clock, Volume, Network, Power, and Action Center
- Troubleshooting, which allows access to various troubleshooting wizards on computer problems under the following general categories: Programs, Hardware and Sound, Network and Internet, Appearance and Personalization, System and Security.

Most of the other applets that Vista and Windows 7 have in common have either not changed at all, or have relatively minor differences.

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Exploring Microsoft Windows 7 Beta 1

Part III: What I've Discovered About Windows 7

by

Lee Reynolds, Contributing Editor, Boca Raton Computer Society, Florida

Boca Bits, May 2009

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New Aero Effects

AERO SHAKE

Let's open a few windows onto your Desktop to show some of the new Aero capabilities built into Windows 7. We'll put several of them there, all partially on top of one another.

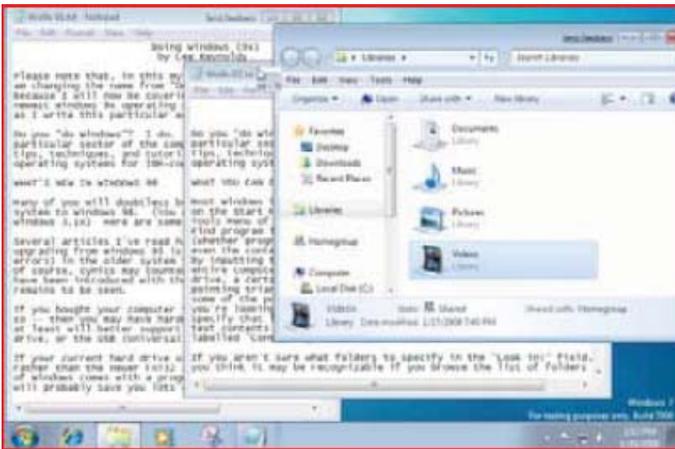


Figure 1 – Three Windows Before Aero Shake

Suppose you wanted to see the window where the mouse cursor is, which is partially obscured by a couple of other windows that are open. If you just click where the mouse is, then that window would come to the forefront, just as in previous versions of Windows.

Suppose as you click with the mouse on that window you shake it back and forth a couple of times, left and right. Magically all the other windows minimize to the Taskbar, and you are left with only the one you wanted to look at.

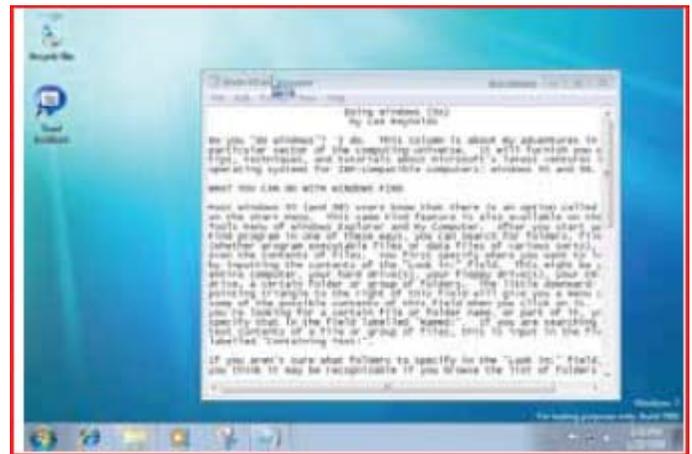


Figure 2 – After Aero Shake

A bit quicker than making numerous clicks to minimize or close all the other windows! This feature of Windows 7 is called “Aero Shake”, but that’s only half of it.

If you now shake the one open window left and right a couple of times, all the other windows that were open but partially obscured appear back on the screen.

AERO SNAP

The screenshot (Figure 3) shows two windows open, one partially behind the other. Note that they are two views of similar text documents that have been opened in Windows Notepad.

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Take the one on the left, put your mouse near the lefthand side of the Title bar and drag it over to the left until the mouse just barely touches the left edge of your screen. A faint outline of half the Desktop shows up.

If you release the mouse button, then the window that you moved toward the left side of the screen resizes and fills up that half of the screen!

Now take the window on the right, put your mouse near the right-hand side of the Title bar and drag it over to the right until the mouse just barely touches the right edge of your screen. Then the faint outline of the right half of your Desktop shows up, and when you release the mouse button the window will resize itself to the right half of your Desktop. Very easy to see the two windows side by side for comparison purposes, for example.

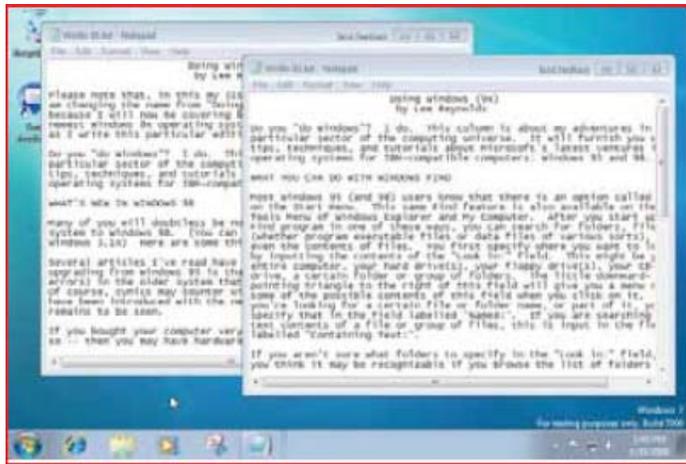


Figure 3 – Two Notepad Windows

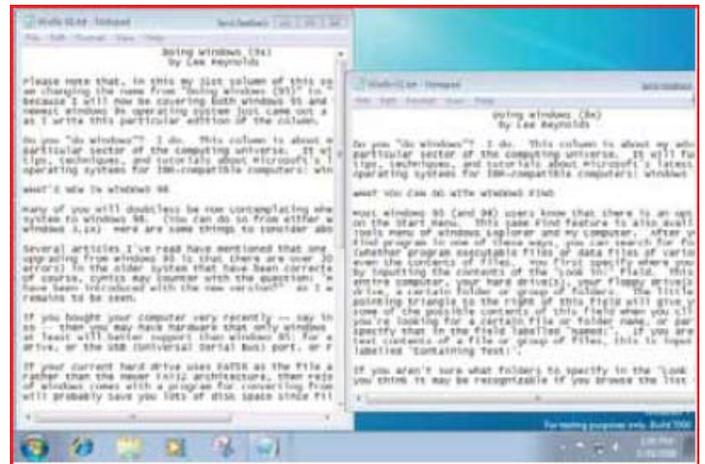


Figure 4 – After Aero Snap

But that's not all there is to Aero Snap. Now let's open a single window of our display of a text document through Notepad, and next drag it to the top edge of the screen, until the mouse barely touches it. A faint outline of the entire Desktop shows up, and if we release the mouse button, then magically, the Notepad window maximizes to fill the screen!

(Of course, this works with any window, not just a Notepad window.) Finally, if we drag the maximized window downward away from the top edge, and let it go, it returns to its previous size.

One more thing about the Aero Snap feature: there are shortcut keys for these effects if you would prefer to use the keyboard rather than a mouse:

- Windows key and Up Arrow - same as Maximize window
- Windows key and Down Arrow - same as Restore window
- Windows key and Left Arrow - same as display on left half of desktop
- Windows key and Right Arrow - same as display on right half of desktop.

AERO PEEK

The Aero Peek feature has a number of characteristics. It is particularly useful if you have a number of windows open on your screen. Each of the windows will of course correspond to a Taskbar button.

Some of the Taskbar buttons will appear to be several layers deep (one button behind another, like a row of dominoes), if you have multiple instances of the program open at the same time. If you have several tabs open in Internet Explorer 8, there will be a button for each of the tabs. When this is true, there is a little upward pointing arrow to the right of the taskbar icon which you can use to choose which of the program instances you want to work with.

Hovering over a Taskbar button (one which is not a pseudo Quick Launch button) without clicking it will open up a miniature image preview of that window over the Taskbar.

If you hover over any of those miniature image previews, then all other windows that are open on your screen become transparent and you see only the window whose image preview you are hovering your mouse over.

It is like you can peek through all the other windows to see that one window. (Of course, that is why the feature is called Aero Peek.)

So if you wanted to see what is in a window without transferring control over to it, you can very easily do so. If you actually click on one of those image previews, it becomes the active window.

You can also close a window (or a tab, in the case of an Internet Explorer Taskbar button) by clicking on the small "X" icon in the image preview.

Another part of Aero Peek is the replacement for the "Show Desktop" icon in the Quick Launch

bar of previous versions of Windows. This is a small rectangle at the right end of the Taskbar.

If you hover your mouse over this area, you will see a tooltip reading "Show desktop", but also it will show you an image of your Desktop overlaid with rectangular outlines of any windows you might have open covering parts of the Desktop. So it is as if you are peeking behind all the open windows to see the Desktop.

If you actually click that rectangular area, rather than just hover over it, then it will act like the Show Desktop icon of previous Windows versions: all windows minimize to the Taskbar and you see your Desktop.

You can also right click the Show Desktop area of the Windows 7 Taskbar and it will give you a context menu from which you can choose one of the options: Preview Desktop, or Show Desktop.

Unfortunately, the Preview Desktop does not work (in fact, it shows as "greyed out" on the context menu) in the Virtual Pc environment. The screenshot in Figure 5 shows this:

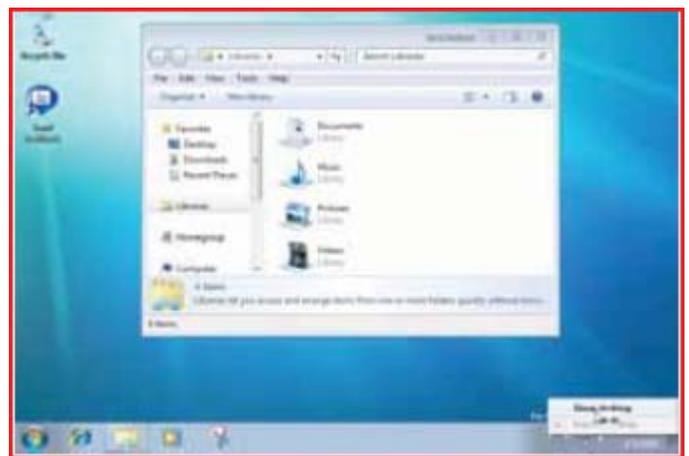


Figure 5 – Show Desktop

Part IV: What I've Discovered About Windows 7

by

Lee Reynolds, Contributing Editor, Boca Raton Computer Society, Florida
Boca Bits, June 2009

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The Start Menu And Its Properties

As you can see from the screenshots below, the Windows 7 Start Menu is very similar to the Vista Start Menu.

One difference is that doing a search in the search dialog box at the bottom will turn the entire Start Menu into a display of the search results.



Figure 1 – Vista Start Menu

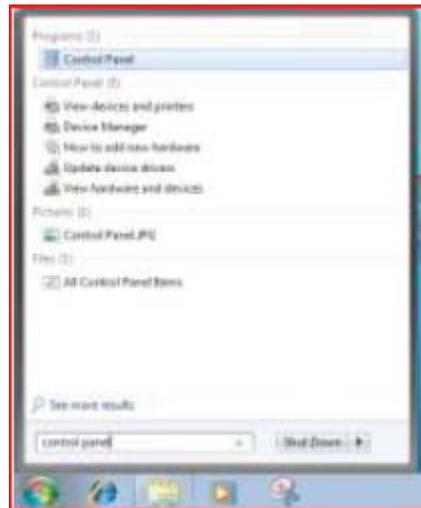


Figure 3 – Win7 Start Menu Search

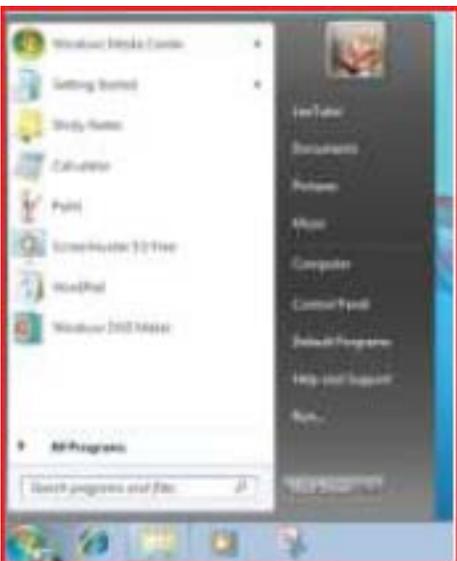


Figure 2 - Win7 Start Menu



Figure 4 – Vista Start Menu Search

In Vista, the search results only occupied the left half of the Start Menu.

Part IV: Windows 7 Discovery- cont'd

DIFFERENCES

If you right click the Start “orb” and select Properties from the Context Menu, then you can see a bit better some of the differences between Windows 7 and Vista.

For example:

- There is no Classic Start Menu option.
- There is no option for using Large Icons.
- There are no links for Internet or E-mail.
- The check box for Printers in Vista has changed to one for Devices and Printers in Windows 7.
- There is a check box for Recorded TV.



Figure 5 – Vista Start Menu Properties



Figure 6 – Win7 Start Menu Properties

POWER BUTTON ACTION

One of the nicest options added to Start Menu Properties is the ability to switch the Start Menu Power button usage among these different options: **Switch User, Log off, Lock, Restart, Sleep, Hibernate, and Shut Down.**

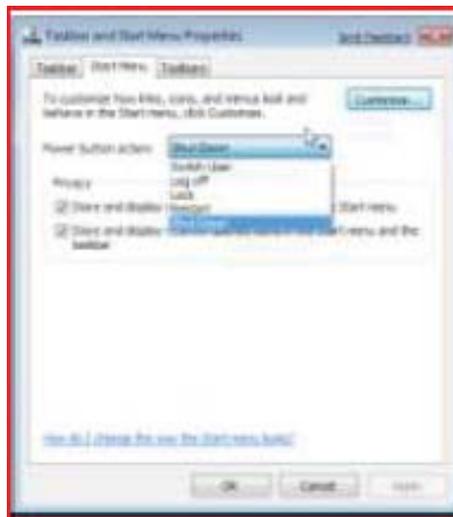


Figure 7 – Win7 Power Button Action

Taskbar Properties

- Right clicking the Taskbar, and selecting Properties, takes you to the Taskbar Properties window, as in previous versions of Windows.
- This is similar to Vista's with a few exceptions:
- There is no option for Keep on top of other windows.
- There is no option for Group Similar Taskbar buttons (they are always grouped.)
- There is no option for Show Quick Launch, since the Taskbar has been modified so that pseudo Quick Launch icons can be pinned to the Taskbar.
- There is no option for turning on or off windows pre-views.
- The Notification tab has been replaced by a separate window in Control Panel, and will be covered later.

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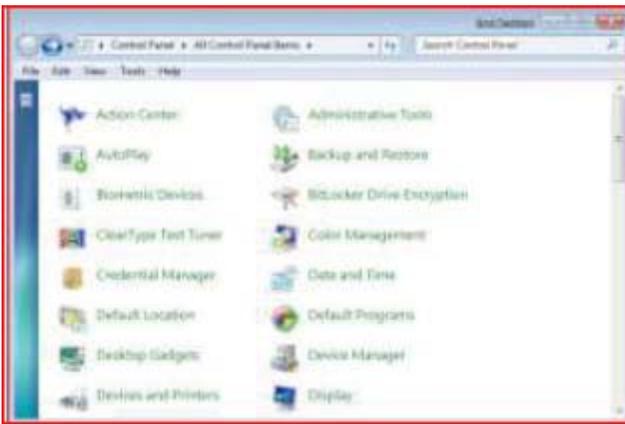


Figure 11 - Win7 Control Panel All Items

MISSING AND REPLACED APPLETS

Some of the missing applets in Windows 7 are: Add Hardware, People Near Me, and Windows Sidebar Properties.

The Welcome Center applet of Vista has been replaced in Windows 7 by one called Getting Started.

Since there are still Gadgets in Windows 7, but no Sidebar to mount them on, the Windows Sidebar Properties applet of Vista has been replaced by Desktop Gadgets.

The Printers applet of Vista has been replaced by one called Devices and Printers. Besides printers, this new applet can also handle devices that are connected externally to the computer, including devices connected wirelessly or over the network, through USB cables, Bluetooth, Wireless USB, Wi-Fi or other wireless connections.

System Restore in Vista was one of the tasks in the left pane of the window for the System applet. Under Windows 7, it has its own applet called Recovery.

Windows Security Center is another applet in Vista that has been redistributed differently in Windows 7. Security Center enabled you to handle the Firewall, Automatic Updating, use of an Anti-virus

program and the handling of malware by Windows Defender. It also allowed you to turn on User Account Control if it was disabled.

Vista also had an applet called Problem Reports and Solutions which allowed you to research and report problems in your computer. In Windows 7, most of this is handled in the new applet called Action Center.

Vista's feature called User Account Control aggravated a lot of people because it was so continually intrusive on their attempts to do anything with their computers. Many people turned off UAC in Vista, even though this made them much more vulnerable to the introduction of malware on their pcs. Windows 7 has a new version of User Account Control which is much more versatile and less intrusive. You use a slider bar to adjust between 4 different settings. The top setting corresponds to Vista's only setting of UAC "on." The bottom setting corresponds to Vista's setting of UAC "off." In between are two intermediary settings:

- 1) notify me when programs try to make changes to my computer, but don't notify me when I make changes to Windows settings
- 2) notify me only when programs try to make changes to my computer (do not dim my desktop.)

Option 1 above is the default option when Windows 7 is installed.

NEW APPLETS

There are a number of other new applets in Windows 7 with no counterpart in Vista, including:

- ClearType Text Tuner, which helps make the text on the screen easier to read
- Credential Manager, which helps manage user names and passwords and other credentials used to log on to websites, other computers, etc.

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The Next Regular Meeting will be at
The Severn River Middle School

Wednesday
September 9th, 2009

Meeting will be held in the large meeting room.
It starts at 7:00 P.M. with club business
and a short discussion period.

presentation on

 **Windows® 7**

by

Mike Young

Members and their friends are welcome to
come, ask questions and become enlightened.

How to Find: Severn River Middle School

SRMS is close to the Arnold, MD campus of the Anne Arundel Community College. From Annapolis and points south, take Rte 2 (Ritchie Highway) north about 3 miles from the intersection of Rt. 50, **turn right on College Parkway**. At the first light, turn left on Peninsula Farm Road. (Of course, if you are coming from points North, you would turn left onto College Parkway) about a half-mile down the road the large SRMS school building, set back off a large two level parking lot, will be visible on your right. Park here and go to the main entrance. Signs will be posted to direct you to the **Large Group Room** where we will be meeting.

**How to find: The Technology SIG, A ChPCUG
Special Interest Group****

The meetings are held at the SRMS in the Library.



Chesapeake PC Users Group

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FIRST CLASS

 **Windows® 7**

INSIDE THIS VERY ISSUE!

President's Corner

Windows 7 Beta - Part III

Windows 7 Beta - Part IV

... and a little bit more!

Note: The date above your name on the mailing label is the expiration date of your membership. Contact the Membership Chairman (page 2, column 2) to update.

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