Heads Up! I've sent this out before but we need reminders for something this dangerous.

There are several things to be aware of.

1.Gangs and thieves are now plotting different ways to get a person mostly women) to stop their vehicle and get out of the car.
There is a gang initiation reported by the local Police Department where gangs are placing a car seat by the road...with a fake baby in it....waiting for a woman, of course, to stop and check on the abandoned baby.

DO NOT STOP FOR ANY REASON!!! DIAL 9-1-1 AND REPORT WHAT YOU SAW, BUT DON 'T EVEN SLOW DOWN.

IF YOU ARE DRIVING AT NIGHT AND EGGS ARE THROWN AT YOUR WINDSHIELD, DO NOT STOP TO CHECK YOUR CAR, DO NOT OPERATE THE WIPERS AND DO NOT SPRAY ANY WATER BECAUSE EGGS MIXED WITH WATER
BECOME MILKY, AND BLOCK YOUR VISION UP TO 92.5%, AND YOU ARE THEN FORCED TO STOP BESIDE THE ROAD AND BECOME A VICTIM OF THESE Criminals.
2.
Click here: Direct attack on Catholics
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The Villages Computer Club

The Villages Computer Club will meet at 1 p.m. Friday Jan 27th 2012 at Lake Miona Recreation Center. There will be a presentation by Charles Prince on **Internet Safety.**

Following the presentation will be refreshments, 50/50, door prizes and a problem solving session.

f you have a computer problem you can't resolve, fill out the problem report form found at thevillagescomputerclub.com and bring it to the meeting.

We are looking forward to another year of great presentations, giving you excellent technical solutions and good fellowship.

If you have any questions, email TVCC.Pres@gmail.com.

See you at the Lake Miona meeting on Friday.

The Auction Last Friday 1/20

Thank all of you who participated in the VCC auction. What a great event! Over 70 items were auctioned off new laptops, e-readers, wireless printers, speak ers, and lots of other items.

We also asked the membership to elect our board members for the year of 2012. It resulted in a unanimous vote for: Art Fenn, Bob Petrilak, Bob Walton, Carl Bell, Don Kobes, Fred Benson, John Campbell, and Paul Rabenold.

Richard Woods term ended as Club Secretary and we thank him for his hard work and dedication over the years. We are expecting Richard to continue to have an active role in the club

Margot Zoeller has been appointed as our Treasurer. We want to thank her for being willing to serve in this capacity.

The club has also appointed a few people as member representatives. Their job is to bring membership feedback to the board. They attend each board meeting and help the board to stay close to member concerns. They are : Bob Walton, Gregoire Robert, Harry Martin, Marlene Monton.

Thanks again
Paul Rabenold
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Many computer manufacturers are dropping Desktops. Why???? GLASS!!

Click here: MUSIC, HUMOR & OTHER INTERESTING STUFF: ~A Day Made Of Glass-You Gotta See This.~
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Kindle Fonts Setting

When reading books, magazines, newspapers, or other items on Kindle, you can select a font size that is comfortable for you. Kindle provides a various font sizes ranging from approximately seven to 40 points and allows you to easily change

the text size while reading.

You can choose from eight different font sizes on Kindle Fire. To change the font size while reading,

1. Tap the top of the screen to bring up the menu at the bottom of the screen

2. Or tap the center of the screen while reading text.

2. Tap the Text icon (Aa) to display text appearance options.

3. Tap to select the preferred font size.. Select the Text button (Aa) that is your desired font size.

On the same menu, you'll also see options to adjust the words per line, typeface, line spacing and font size. When finished selecting your preferences, tap the "x" in the corner of the menu to close it.

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Kindle Fire Purchase or Book Rental

You can purchase Kindle books directly from the Kindle Store using your Kindle Fire. You do not have to go to www.amazon.com.

With your Kindle Fire connected via Wi-Fi,

1.Tap Books on the Kindle Fire Home screen.

2. Tap Store. This takes you to the Kindle Store.

3. Browse by Category or search specific titles by tapping within the search filed.

4. If you select the "Buy" link, and you have the default 1-click payment method on your Amazon.com account you will be charged for the item and it will be delivered wirelessly to your Kindle Fire.

NOTE: To set up your 1-Click payment method so you can shop the Kindle Store directly from your Kindle Fire, visit the Manage Your Kindle page at www.amazon.com/manageyourkindle and update your payment information in the "Kindle Payment Settings" section.

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Kindle Tutorials

Click Here: Click here: Amazon.com Help

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APC Backup Reset

When power fails and the APC sounds the alarm, it will need to be reset.

APC Back UP- flashing red light and cricket sound

1. Shut down computer
2. Press power button on UPS
3. Wait awhile
4. Press power button on UPS
5. Turn computer back on
6. Sound goes away
7. Bottom green light stays lit

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Computer Crash

Sooner or later, your computer is going to crash - when you least expect it, and probably when you need it most.

While your system is working properly turn it on and prepare a boot disk

Win XP & Vista

Creating an XP or Vista boot disk is much more involved and so it is recommended that you have the RECOVERY Disks that came with your computer, or that you create a set of the disks while setting up the new computer and keep those in a safe place just in case a crash occurs and you have to reinstall the applications or do a full format and recovery. IF your XP will not power up so you can get to the Recovery disks stored in a partition of your C:\drive, you're going to

need something to power up. Here is a link to the microsoft site which tells how to get replacement disks, how to create a boot disk, etc.
Click here: How to obtain Windows XP Setup disks for a floppy boot installation (www.microsoft.com/kb/310994). IF your computer has no floppy drive, use a flash drive or cd-rom disk instead.
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Transfer Data

Easiest way to transfer data is to create a network between the two computers, set it to share documents and transfer any data you wish via the network. However, because this type transfer requires some knowledge about setting up and use of Parallel cable or using a serial RS-232C cable, I recommend using a USB flash drive. Simply copy data from Source computer to the flash drive, then unplug the flash drive and plug it into the Destination computer's USB drive and copy the data from the flash drive to folders in the Destination computer. One suggestion might be to create a folder on the Destinations computer's C: drive and give it the name of the Source computer.

Direct Parallel Cable Transfer of Data

To make a direct network connection by using a DirectParallel cable.

You must be logged onto the computer as an administrator

Go to Control Panel and click Network Connections.

1. Under **Network Tasks**, click **Create a new connection** and then click **Next**.
2. Click **Set up an advanced connection**, and then click **Next**.
3. Click **Connect directly to another computer**, click **Next**, and then do one of the following:

   If you want your computer to act as the host (your computer contains the information you need to access), click **Host**.

   If you want your computer to act as the guest (your computer accesses information on another computer), click **Guest**, and then click **Next**.

4. In **Device for this connection**, click **Direct Parallel (LPT1)**, and then click **Next**.
5. Follow the remaining instructions in the New Connection Wizard.

Notes: To open Network Connections, click **Start**, click **Control Panel**, and then double-click **Network Connections**.

A direct network connection that uses a DirectParallel cable requires a stand-alone computer running Windows 2000 or Windows XP.

To make a direct network connection:

1. Open Network Connections.
2. Under **Network Tasks**, click **Create a new connection**, and then click **Next**.
3. Click **Set up an advanced connection**, and then click **Next**.
4. Click **Connect directly to another computer**, click **Next**, and then follow the instructions in the New Connection Wizard.

Notes:

- To open Network Connections, click **Start**, click **Control Panel**, and then double-click **Network Connections**.
- To create a direct network connection that acts as a host, you must be logged on as a computer administrator. Guest direct network connections do not require administrator-level rights.
- If you specify your connection as a host when you create it, the connection appears as **Incoming Connections** in the Network Connections folder.
- You can create multiple direct connections by copying them in the Network Connections folder. You can then rename the connections and modify connections settings. By doing so, you can easily create different connections to accommodate multiple ports, host computers, and so on.
- Direct connections can bypass authentication requirements. This is useful for devices such as palmtop computers. You must configure this setting in the host incomingconnection. For more information, click **Related Topics**.
- If you create a direct connection by using a serial (RS-232C) cable, the port that you select in the New Connection Wizard is enabled for connections that use a null modem.
- If you are logged on to your computer as a computer administrator when you create adirect connection, you are presented with a list of connection devices to choose from that includes all of the parallel ports for the computer, infrared ports that are installed and enabled, and COM ports. If you are not logged on as a computer administrator, and create a direct connection, the list of devices includes the parallel ports for the computer, infrared ports that are installed and enabled, and only the COM ports that are configured with null modems. If you need to use a COM port for a direct connection, you will need to configure one of the COM ports on your computer with a null modem by using Phone and Modem Options in Control Panel.

- Users do not need to use direct connections to allow access to shared resources, such as files and printers, over a local area network. In order to enable shared access to resources on the local computer, you must enable file and print sharing, share the resources, and then set up the appropriate permissions.

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Computer Rebooting Cycle

- Heat can cause a computer to reboot. A faulty fan or seized fan may not be cooling as it should. Also, dust bunnies can clog the fan. As soon as the CPU heats up, it will reboot. Try this.

    1. Shutdown the computer and allow it to cool for about 10 minutes.
    2. Remove the cover on the CPU cover.
    3. Power up the CPU . If it doesn't reboot as it did before the problem may well be a non-working fan or a fan clogged with dust bunnies, a mouse, a snake or other air-blocking agent.
    4. To remove 'dust bunnies' or such, shutdown computer, unplug from power. Open the case and using a can of compressed air blow out the dust.

    Note: In <u>Win 7</u> it's a good idea to uncheck the automatic restart in System Failure because should a system failure occur such as the blue screen of death, the computer begins restart and doesn't stop it just continues to reboot...reboot ....reboot.

    To disable this feature:

    1. Click Start...Control Panel
    2. Click System
    3. On the left column click Advanced system Settings
    4 Under System Failure, uncheck automatic restart

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- **********

BIOS or UEFI

You may not understand all of the following but it is important that you read it and TRY to understand as it will be part of the computers you purchase starting with Win 8.

Say goodbye to BIOS — and hello to UEFI!

By Woody Leonhard

If you've ever struggled with your PC's BIOS — or been knee-capped by a rootkit that assailed the BIOS — you undoubtedly wondered why this archaic part of every PC wasn't scrapped long ago.

Well, be of good cheer: Windows 8 will finally pull the PC industry out of the BIOS generation and into a far more capable — and controversial — alternative, the Unified Extensible Firmware Interface.

To best understand where we're headed, it's helpful to look at where we've been. An integral part of every PC, the Basic Input/Output System spans the entire history of the personal computer — more than 30 years. The very first IBM PC had a BIOS. And despite extraordinary advances in hardware and software, the BIOS we still puzzle over today is not much different from the one in that original PC.

Essentially a miniature OS, the BIOS has a simple but critical function — when a PC powers up, the BIOS checks that all hardware is in order (the POST or "power-on self-test" sequence); fires up the full operating system on the machine, such as Windows (using OS loader code); and then hands all control of the computer over to the OS.

Although older operating systems (such as DOS) relied on the BIOS to perform input and output functions, modern OSes (including Windows) have their own device drivers and completely bypass the BIOS after they're up and running.

These days, it's rare that a PC user is forced to invoke the BIOS's cryptic and somewhat enigmatic user interface. Usually, it's in response to some near-catastrophic system failure.

The Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) is essentially the next generation of BIOS. It's a system that potentially offers new and more advanced control of the boot-up process. If your PC is less than two or three years old, chances are good that it already has UEFI (more info) capabilities. Chances are ***very*** good that you didn't know that, because the hardware manufacturers have been carefully keeping the old BIOS interface as your default boot system. But that will change with Windows 8.
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How UEFI is different from/better than BIOS

The standard BIOS has all sorts of problems, not least of which is its susceptibility to malware. For example, there are rootkits that hook themselves into the BIOS OS-loader code, permitting them to run underneath Windows. They're difficult to remove and will reinfect Windows over and over.

And because the BIOS sits on a chip on the motherboard, it's more difficult to update than an operating system or an application. So most PC users never update their BIOS, leaving the PC possibly incompatible with newer operating systems. (The early PC BIOS was hard-coded on a chip, so upgrading required replacing the entire chip or PROM.)

The UEFI is a more sophisticated system that runs before your primary OS kicks in. Unlike the BIOS, UEFI can access ***all*** PC hardware, including the mouse and network connections. It can take advantage of modern video cards and monitors. It can even access the Internet.

And as you can see in Figure 1, UEFI offers a modern, easy-to-decipher user interface. It could make dual-booting simpler, more visual, and controllable by mouse or touch. If you've ever played your BIOS, you discover that UEFI is in a whole new dimension.

Figure 1. The Asus.com website offers this view of a UEFI-interface screen — clearly, an improvement over the typical BIOS UI we're faced with today.

Unlike the BIOS, the UEFI can exist on a disk, just like any other program — or in nonvolatile memory on the motherboard or even on a network share.

At this point, it's important to note that systems can run either the BIOS or the UEFI — or both. When

they're both used, the BIOS goes first to run POST, then the UEFI takes over and hooks into any calls that may be made to the BIOS. (Windows typically doesn't make calls directly to the BIOS, but other operating systems might — and the UEFI will handle them, not the BIOS.)

The UEFI can also run without the BIOS — it can take care of all OS loading/interface functions previously handled by the BIOS. The only thing the UEFI can't do is perform the POST or run the initial setup (configuring the CPU, memory, and other hardware). PCs that have the UEFI but no BIOS have separate programs for POST and setup that run automatically when the PC is powered on.

As we all know, the BIOS initialization process — including POST — seems to take a long time. The UEFI, on the other hand, can run quickly.

Moreover, a BIOS is easily reverse-engineered and typically has no internal security protection, making it a sitting duck for malware. A UEFI can run malware-dodging techniques such as policing operating systems prior to loading them — which might make rootkit writers' lives considerably more difficult. For example, the UEFI could refuse to run OSes that lack proper digital security signatures.

And that's where the UEFI controversy begins.

Windows 8 will implement UEFI in new ways

Back in September, Microsoft wrote voluminously about the UEFI in Windows 8. The first post, "Reengineering the Windows boot experience," talks about the basic ways Windows 8 will use the UEFI. (If your PC doesn't support a UEFI, Win8 should still work fine.)

The article shows how current text-based, boot-time options, such as system repair store and image recovery, can be made more usable with a new graphical interface. The story goes on to describe how system startup could go, in seconds, from power-on to Windows Desktop without so much as flickering the screen. It also shows how dual-boot will work with a graphical face-lift.

The changes appear to be largely cosmetic, but they're long overdue and a welcome improvement to the constrained, DOS-era recovery environments under which Windows operates.

The second article, "Protecting the pre-OS environment with UEFI," shows how the UEFI secure boot — using Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) digital certificates — validates programs, peripherals, and OS loaders before they can run. The system can go out to the Internet and check whether the UEFI is about to run an OS that has had its certificate yanked.

If it sounds a lot like Secure Sockets Layer protection — no stranger to controversy, as I detailed in my Sept. 15, 2011, Top Story — there certainly are similarities.

Microsoft states it will let the hardware manufacturers struggle with the difficult question of who controls the digital-signature keys. "Microsoft supports OEMs having the flexibility to decide who manages security certificates and how to allow customers to import and manage those certificates, and manage secure boot. We believe it is important to support this flexibility to the OEMs and to allow our customers to decide how they want to manage their systems."

Still, Microsoft is ensuring that anyone buying a certified Windows 8 PC can rely on a certain level of protection from rogue OS loaders. "For Windows customers, Microsoft is using the Windows Certification program to ensure that systems shipping with Windows 8 have secure boot enabled by default, that firmware not allow programmatic control of secure boot (to prevent malware from disabling security policies in firmware), and that OEMs prevent unauthorized attempts at updating firmware that could compromise system integrity."

The controversial side of dual boot

When those details first hit, the Linux community flew up in arms. Dual booting between Windows 8 and Linux might require a digital signature from a recognized certificate authority. That authority might be Microsoft, through its Windows Certification program, and Linux folks would have to pay the piper.

That controversy went on for a while but eventually died down (though it never disappeared) when it became clear that putting together the signature is relatively easy and not very expensive.

Then another conflagration started last week. To understand why, you have to understand that UEFI secure boot has two bail-out options. First, most PCs let you turn off UEFI secure boot entirely. You have to be sitting at the computer and do it manually, but it's easy enough. In one of the Microsoft postings mentioned previously, the company acknowledged that hardware manufacturers could "allow customers to … manage secure boot."

Second, there's a provision for something called "custom secure boot mode" in which you, as a customer, can sit at your computer and type in a signature for any OS loader you darned well like. This manually created whitelist overrides the Windows 8 or third-party check, letting the UEFI run OS loaders unhindered.

You must also understand that Windows 8 will run on two entirely different hardware platforms — Intel/AMD platforms spanning the range from (ponderous!) tablets to full-size desktops, and the svelte, tablet-friendly ARM platforms. If you use Win8, one of your first decisions will be which platform you choose.

The Linux world was taken aback when researcher Glyn Moody and the Software Freedom Law Center announced last week in a blog that Microsoft is making specific demands from hardware manufacturers who intend to sell Windows 8 bundled with their ARM machines — that is, those lightweight Windows 8 tablets. The Microsoft restrictions prevent hardware manufacturers from disabling secure boot and also prevent hardware manufacturers from implementing "custom secure boot" whitelists — but again, only on ARM hardware.

In other words, if at some point in the future you buy an ARM-based tablet with Windows 8 preinstalled, you won't be able to dual-boot with Linux or any operating system other than the ones that pass the security check. Presumably that could mean Windows 8 or some later version of Windows that Microsoft might ordain in the future.

Aside from the fact that the restrictions fly in the face of what Microsoft specifically said in September, it's hard for me to get too worked up about them. If you buy a Win8 (ARM) tablet, you won't be able to root it (Wikipedia definition), and you may not be able to upgrade it. You'll just have to take that into account when you think about buying one — assuming Microsoft is up-front about the limitation and mentions it to consumers.

Intel-based Windows 8 machines — even tablets (including tablets that run only the Metro interface) — aren't hobbled by those ARM restrictions. At least at this point, Intel/AMD machines are, in fact, required to allow multibooting (with signed operating systems) and even to replace Windows 8 with an OS of your choice. It remains to be seen whether Microsoft's going to change its mind about that distinction.
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Jmax

Jmax's Website http://www.jmaxbits.com/

Jmax Bits Newsletter is now posted each Monday & Thursday on the website. You have the option for a .pdf or a .rtf file.

1.For help with a computer problem, put HELP in the subject line and give me info about the computer you're using, if you know it.

2.To view or print Jmax Bits Good Services List in the Villages area, click link www.jmaxbits.com

3. To sign up for the non-computer newsletter, send an email to VLGSClassifieds@aol.com. Put SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To send an Ad, place AD in the subject line.

4. The Villages Computer Club's web page: Click here: Welcome To The Villages Computer Club
To add your name to the VCC announcements list, send email to TheVCC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

5. Fred Benson's website www.thevillagescomputerbasics.com