

The Villages Computer Club

The Villages Computer Club will meet at 1 p.m. Friday Feb. 15th at La Hacienda Recreation Center. The program will feature a presentation by Bobbie Sebolt and John Campbell on Taxes and Tax Software.

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

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

Guests are always welcome, please bring your village ID card. For information or to sign up to be on the VCC email list, visit the website or email Paul Rabenold at TVCC.Pres@gmail.com.

A warning message from Thomas at MMD Computers.

JMAX,

We wanted to let you know that we are seeing a big increase in companies doing cold calls. They usually said they are from Microsoft or are a Microsoft Partner and tell you that you have thousands of errors and they can fix it for XXX amount of money. They say a new system has thousands of errors. Can you spread the word to avoid these calls?

Thanks
Thomas
MMD Computers, Lady Lake, Fl
For more info call Telephone 750-3707

Defragmentation of Hard Drive WHY?

To understand why defragmentation (or defrag) is necessary, let's go over how a hard drive stores files. Your hard drive is made up of sectors and blocks, which are like file folders and filing cabinets in an office. When a document, picture or other file wants to save to your hard drive the drive needs to find space to put it. To make most efficient use of the space on your hard drive (and allow you to easily delete/move files), the hard drive breaks up the files into little pieces and stores them where there is available space on the drive. The result of this is a file that may exist as a single, but pieces of it may be in 3 different parts of the hard drive. When you go to open the picture the hard drive knows to look in those 3 separate areas to get the complete file.

So why do you need to defragment if the hard drive knows where to look? Two reasons: Speed and wear-and-tear.

Speed: Every time the hard drive needs to move the read head to a new location it takes a certain amount of time to move. If the file is in one single area of the hard drive, the head only needs to move once to read the file. If the file is contained in 3 different places, the head needs to move 3 times to get the same file, making the time it takes to load longer.

Wear-and-tear: As a mechanical device, your hard drive read head moves a lot as it accesses files. Limiting the amount of times it has to move is going to increase the drives lifespan.

By defragmenting the hard drive all the files that can be lined up together are moved so that the hard drive reads files faster, has less movement needed, and lasts longer. Win/Win!

Drive Labeling

The default of Windows is to name drives by assigning letters of the alphabet to them as they are created. The main hard drive is usually named the C: drive. You do not have to leave them as just letters C:, D:, F:, G:, etc. You may name them.

1. Doubleclick My Computer on the desktop.
2. Rightclick the drive to which you would like to add a label.
3. Select Properties.
4. In the text window near the top of the General tab, type the label for that drive.
(example: My F: drive is named Jmax)
5. Click Apply and Ok. Now when you rightclick Start and select Explore and go to your drive you'll see the letter but you'll also see the label you gave it in front of the letter.

Note: Drives with FAT formatting may only use 11 characters. Those with NTFS formatting may use up to 32 characters in the label.

Note 2: To see if your drive is formatted with FAT or NTFS, rightclick the drive and select properties. Near the top of that screen is File System and it will say NTFS if your drive is formatted as NTFS.

Note:3 The CD/DVD Drive cannot be labeled as stated above. See below

Changing CD/DVD Drive letter

The CD/DVD drive does not have the RENAME option.

1. Click Start>Run and type "diskmgmt.msc".
2. Find the CD-ROM drive (D), right-click on it, and select "Change drive letter and paths".
3. Click the Remove button.
4. Now right-click on the hard drive partition (E) and select "Change drive letter and paths", click "Change", and set it to D.
5. Go back to the CD-ROM drive and open the Change Drive Letter window again.
6. Now click Add and choose E for the new drive letter.

Hard Drive Backup

Question: Please tell me the proper way to back up my hard drive. I have not done it and I have added new programs and want to do it the correct way.

There is a backup program in XP although XP doesn't make it easy to find....probably because it doesn't work any better than the older versions of MS backup.

There are a number of imaging programs that can be purchased such as Norton's Ghost which will create an image of your hard drive and in event of hard drive failure, when your hard drive is repaired, you can then restore that image right back to that hard drive. This requires that you have lots of storage space available. I prefer a simpler route.

What I recommend is this

1. Keep all your install disks in a safe place in case you have a hard drive failure, you can reinstall after repair or replacement of the hard drive.
2. Make a set of Recovery Disks for your computer in case your computer won't start and you can't get to the Recovery that is on a partition of your c:\ drive...unless of course you were fortunate enough to have gotten Recovery disks with your computer.
3. Any programs, drivers, etc that you download from web sites, download to the DOWNLOAD folder you create under MY DOCUMENTS. If you need to reinstall those you'll have them.
4. All Pictures and Documents you create, should be saved in a folder you create under MY DOCUMENTS or in a folder you create under the MY PICTURES folder in the MY DOCUMENTS FOLDER.

With all the above said, you are now ready to do your backup...which is to **copy** the MY DOCUMENTS either to an external hard drive, to a CD or send it via a network to another computer on your network.

This way, **should a crash occur** you have the option to:

1. Do a System Restore back to a date when all was well, if your computer will start to SAFE MODE.
2. Use the Recovery Disk to just recover the Applications if the problem is with corrupted files in the OS.
3. Or worse scenario is to do a full Format and Recovery using your Recovery disks which means wiping the hard drive clean and then the recovery disk will reinstall the OS and programs just like it came from the factory. In this case, you will then need to reinstall any programs you have added to your computer. AND copy back the MY DOCUMENTS FOLDER to replace the MY DOCUMENTS folder on your clean formatted machine. And also, remember to update your anti-virus and anti-spyware programs once reinstalled.

What I have elected to do is to invest in an external Hard drive and I save everything to it as I create stuff rather than saving to my C:\ drive. About every 3 months, I move a copy of the My Documents folder to another computer on my network into a folder I call Laptop backup, replacing the one stored on last backup.

Flash Drive error

"Cannot copy (file name): the request could not be performed because of an I/O device error"

Answer from <http://ask-leo.com/>

"I/O" stands for Input/Output, so an "I/O Device" is the Input/Output device you happen to be using at the time. An "I/O Device error" means that some kind of unrecoverable error happened on that device.

The device, of course, could be either the device that contains the file you're copying - in other words an error reading the file - or the device you're copying the file to - in other words an error writing the file.

If you can copy the file anywhere else - like perhaps a different hard disk - then the problem is likely to be writing to the destination, which in your case is the flash drive.

As I've written about before, [flash drives wear out](#), and cheap ones wear out most quickly. When they begin to fail they start showing errors exactly like what you're seeing.

When this happens you really have only one option: copy off all the data you might want to preserve from that flash drive, and replace it with a new one. Simple, and hopefully effective if you do it as soon as the flash drive starts showing problems.

When this error occurs on your primary hard drive in your computer, it may indicate a 'bad sector'. Do a Scandisk or on XP Error Checking and be sure that both boxes are checked. You'll have to say YES to schedule the Error Checking to run, then restart your computer. It takes a few hours if you have a very large hard drive, so do this when you don't need the computer for a long time.

Large Block of Hard Drive disappears

How to find

- Run disk defragmenter in analysis mode. Then view the report.
- 2. The report should tell where the large block of files were located.
- 3. Open a command prompt and navigate to that directory.
- 4. Type in delete *.* on that directory and press Enter to delete that directory or sub-directory

NOTE: This course of action was safe (deleting block) only because these files were located in a sub-directory of 'Temporary Internet Files.'

Stuck keys on your Keyboard?

Your computer keyboard can take a lot of abuse from dust and dirt, it is a good idea to clean it on a regular basis, and there are some things you can try when you get stuck keys like you have.

Before you begin though, you might want to consider just purchasing a new keyboard. You can get them at any office store, and basic models are under \$20. You should also be prepared to purchase a new keyboard if cleaning the stuck keys doesn't work, or in the event that you can't get the keys back on the keyboard when you are done cleaning them.

First, collect your cleaning supplies. Get some canned compressed air, lint-free cloth, mild liquid dishwashing detergent, a small screwdriver (for removing keys), cotton swabs, and 90 percent isopropyl alcohol. Before you begin cleaning your keyboard, you need to shut down your computer and unplug the keyboard from the back of your computer. Never plug or unplug your keyboard or mouse while the computer is running, you can damage the port on the computer.

Start by shaking out any loose debris. Put a large piece of old newspaper on a table, turn the keyboard over, and holding it a few inches above the paper, shake out any loose debris.

Now, take your can of compressed air and use it to loosen and remove dirt by directing the air stream between the keys. Alternate the air with repeated shaking over the paper again.

To remove oils from your hands, dried on spills and other dirt from the surface of the keys, put a few drops of liquid dishwashing detergent in warm water. Use a cloth dampened in this solution to gently clean off the key surfaces, and wipe the keys with a dry cloth.

If you are cleaning the keys on your laptop computer, or if your keyboard is mechanical (makes a clicking noise when you press the keys) you have done all the cleaning you can do. Only continue with the following steps if you have a membrane keyboard with stuck keys.

Take your screwdriver and gently pry off the stuck keys. Don't forget which key goes where, and don't try to take off the larger keys like "Enter", "Shift" or "Tab" they can be hard to get back on and often have extra parts keeping them in place.

Use a cotton swab to clean out under the key, and the underside of the key itself. Use the alcohol only if you need to, and when you have gotten everything nice and clean and dry, replace the key and see if it will work freely.

Once your keyboard is completely reassembled and dry, plug it back into your computer, turn the computer on and see how it works.

Note: I have read that a basic keyboard may be run through the dishwasher without soap, but I have not tried that yet. IF you want to try it, be prepared to buy a new one and then let me know if it worked. Make sure it's dry before attaching it to your computer. Jmax

Disable the Numeric Keypad

The alpha/numeric keypad on a laptop is controlled by the numloc key located somewhere at the top right of your laptop keyboard.

Numloc ON turns numeric on and you may now use the numeric section of the keyboard just as you did the numbers keypad on a regular keyboard. Holding down the FN key will allow you to type letters instead of the number.

Turn OFF numloc and that area of the laptop keyboard once again is alpha. Holding down the FN key will not allow you to type a number since you already have option to type numbers.

Apocalypse Now - the last Pope

click here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-EUg_hkbZRO

No, we won't see this on tv.

If guns were banned, this 11 year old girl from Montana would be dead, probably of stab wounds like her neighbor.

BUTTE, MONTANA

Shotgun preteen vs. Illegal alien Home Invaders...

Two illegal aliens, Ralphel Resindez, 23, and Enrico Garza, 26, probably believed they would easily overpower home-alone 11-year-old Patricia Harrington after her father had left their two-story home. It seems the two crooks never learned two things: they were in Montana and Patricia had been a clay-shooting champion since she was nine.

Patricia was in her upstairs room when the two men broke through the front door of the house. She quickly ran to her father's room and grabbed his 12-gauge Mossberg 500 shotgun.

Resindez was the first to get up to the second floor only to be the first to catch a near point blank blast of buckshot from the 11-year-old's knee-crouch aim. He suffered fatal wounds to his abdomen and genitals.

When Garza ran to the foot of the stairs, he took a blast to the left shoulder and staggered out into the street where he bled to death before medical help could arrive.

It was found out later that Resindez was armed with a stolen 45-caliber handgun he took from another home invasion robbery. That victim, 50-year-old David O'Burien, was not so lucky. He died from stab wounds to the chest.

Ever wonder why good stuff never makes NBC, CBS, PBS, MSNBC, CNN, or ABC news.....? An 11 year old girl, properly trained, defended her home, and herself.....against two murderous, illegal immigrants.....and she wins. She is still alive. Now THAT is Gun Control!

Thought for the day.... Calling an illegal alien an 'undocumented immigrant' is like calling a drug dealer an 'unlicensed pharmacist.' I like

this kind of e-mail! American citizens defending themselves and their homes.

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