Mother Board

This Month

Solving Common Computer Problems
Ray Paternostrol
Greg Wilde

Harahan Senior Center
Wed, May 5th
6:30 pm
102 Elodie St

Inside this issue:

"Disk Failure" Scare

By Phil Sorrentino, President, Sarasota PCUG, Florida
www.spcug.org
president (at) spcug.org

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

This morning, it happened again. I started the computer in the morning, as I do every morning, and staring me in the face was the dreaded "system disk failure" message. A chill went down my spine. It seemed like this happened only

This Month at the NOPCC

6:30 pm   TBA

7:00 pm   How To Prepare for the Hurricane Season: How to Use the Internet for Information, and How to Protect Your Homes and Families and Your Computer Hardware and Data.

Speaker - Derek Kevera WWL TV

Wed July 7th
Harahan Senior Center
102 Elodie St
6:30 pm

about a year or two years ago. When I thought further, it was 2005 when it happened, almost 5 years ago, so maybe that's not too bad. As I ate breakfast, I rapidly thought about the hardware in that computer. (I currently have 3 desktops that I am using for various activities in the home, but this was my main computer, the one other family members use.) Panic started to set-in. Were the disk drives 160GB, or 250GB? When were they installed? Were they Seagate or Western Digital? What interface is used in that computer? Are they formatted in NTFS or FAT32? Well, if it was the C: drive then it must be NTFS. I'll have to open the chassis and look at the drives. Fortunately, this story has a very happy ending. After breakfast, as I knelt down to look at the desktop chassis, to see what was the best approach to removing the cables and other things around the chassis, I spied a floppy disk in the floppy disk drive. Eureka! XP was trying to boot from the floppy: an impossible task, so it reported a disk failure, obviously. Most desktop computers today don't have a floppy disk drive, so this will probably not happen to most people. However, it got me thinking that the answers to all of the questions I had during breakfast, should be in one place, probably along with a lot of other information that defines the current computer hardware setup. So it's probably not a bad idea to gather all of this information, while the computer is operating, and put a hard copy printout in a safe place. The disk drive information is probably the most important for this

Nopc Information

Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Harahan Senior Center.
Time: 6:30
102 Elodie St.
Harahan, LA 70123

Programmer's/Advance User Special Interest Group

Next Meeting scheduled for h. 7:00pm
Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Launch Pad

---

New/Intermediate User Special Interest Group

Bring your computer problems to Ray. Yes you can bring your computer to the meeting.
Send your questions to Ray before meeting via email. new-user@nopc.org

Advantages of emailing questions:
Email questions get piroty during meeting.
More complete answers and less delay during meeting.

Look for NOPC
nopc.org
Twitter.com
Yahoo Groups - nopc_help

ind of failure, but it is a good idea to have all the basic hardware information in one easily accessed place. Here is a list of the things that you might want to have. You may not need all of these so use only those that are pertinent to your hardware setup. (If there's anything that I've forgotten, just add it to the list, and let me know by e-mail.) I'll start with the disk drive information because that is what you'll need if the drive goes down, or you may need if you have to re-install the entire system. (By the way, you can accomplish all of this by using the free program, Belarc Advisor (http://www.belarc.com/ free_download.html). Belarc produces a listing of almost all of the following pieces of information and additional information in the computer security area.)

Disk Drive 1
          Manufacturer   Typically Seagate, Western Digital, …
          Part Number   e.g. ST3160023A (Seagate part no.)
          Date Installed   May be the date of computer purchase
          Size (GB)   e.g 330GB
          Rotating Speed   e.g. 7200 RPM (or possibly 5400 RPM)
          Interface Type   IDE (Parallel ATA) or SATA
          Formatted   NTFS or FAT32
          C: drive size   Typically 25GB (for XP) or 50GB (Vista)
          D: drive size (if used)   Various
Disk Drive 2
          Same as Drive 1
CPU
          Type   e.g Intel Pentium 4, or AMD Athelon

Speed   e.g. 3.2 GHz
          Processors   e.g. 2 Only used for
                                        multi-core
                                        processors

                    (e.g. Intel Core Duo)
Memory
          Amount   e.g. 1GB
          Type/Speed   e.g. PC133 or DDR2, etc.
Display Adapter (If not on Motherboard)
          Manufacturer   e.g. nVidia
          Part Number   e.g. GeForce GTX295
          Other Information if needed.
Networking
          Computer Name   e.g. "Mary's Computer"
          Wired MAC address (if connected to wired Ethernet port)
                              e.g. 00-34-5A-BC-DF-3F
          Wireless MAC address (if used on wireless network)
                              e.g. 00-34-5A-BC-DF-3F
          Router IP address   e.g. 192.168.1.0
USB Devices
          External Drive (for Backup)
          --Manufacturer   e.g. Seagate, Western Digital, LaCie
          --Part Number   Free Agent (Seagate part no.)
          --Date Installed   May be the date of computer purchase
          --Size (GB)   e.g. 1 TB (1,000 GB)
          --Rotating Speed   Typically 7200 RPM
          --Formatted   NTFS or FAT32
          MP3Player   e.g. Apple iPod
          --Part Number   e.g.
          --Size   e.g. 4GB
          --Other Pertinent Information
          Mouse and/or Keyboard (if connected to USB)
          Digital Camera
          --Manufacturer   e.g. Cannon
          --Part Number   e.g. Powershot SX110IS
          --MegaPixel size   e.g. 10MPixels
          --Other Pertinent Information
Other USB Devices
Partial Belarc Advisor Printout

BELARC ADVISOR

The license associated with the Belarc Advisor product allows for **free personal use only.** Use on multiple comput... in a corporate, educational, military or government installation is prohibited. See the license agreement for deta... The information on this page was created locally on your computer by the Belarc Advisor. Your computer profile v... not sent to a web server. Click here for more info.

About Belarc

System Management Products

Your Privacy

System Security Status	CIS Benchmark Score 1.25 of 10 (details...)	Virus Protection ✔ Up-to-date	Microsoft Security Updates ✖ 8 missing

Computer Profile Summary

Computer Name: Desktop2 (in B) — FrontRoom
Profile Date: Saturday, January 02, 2010 9:40:47 AM
Advisor Version: 8.1e
Windows Logon: MainUser

Plan for your next computer refresh... click for Belarc's System Management products

In page Links:

Network Map new

Software Licenses

Software Versions & Usage new

Missing Hotfixes

Installed Hotfixes

Operating System	System Model
Windows XP Professional Service Pack 3 (build 2600) Install Language: English (United States) System Locale: English (United States)	Enclosure Type: Desktop

Processor [a]	Main Circuit Board [b]
3.20 gigahertz Intel Pentium 4 16 kilobyte primary memory cache 1024 kilobyte secondary memory cache Hyper-threaded (2 total)	Board: Gigabyte Technology Co., Ltd. 8IPE1000P-G Bus Clock: 200 megahertz BIOS: Award Software International, Inc. F4 09/06/2004

Drives	Memory Modules [c,d]
320.00 Gigabytes Usable Hard Drive Capacity 91.05 Gigabytes Hard Drive Free Space	1024 Megabytes Usable Installed Memory

Drives (continued):

_NEC DVD_RW ND-3520A [CD-ROM drive]
SONY DVD-ROM DDU1613 [CD-ROM drive]
3.5" format removeable media [Floppy drive]

ST3160023A [Hard drive] (160.04 GB) -- drive 1, s/n 4LJ0T7GW, rev 8.01, SMART Status: Healthy
ST3160023A [Hard drive] (160.04 GB) -- drive 0, s/n 5LJ1FYHX, rev 8.01, SMART Status: Healthy

Memory Modules (continued):

Slot 'A0' has 512 MB
Slot 'A1' is Empty
Slot 'A2' has 512 MB
Slot 'A3' is Empty

Local Drive Volumes

c: (NTFS on drive 0)	26.22 GB	5.38 GB free
d: (FAT32 on drive 0)	133.78 GB	38.98 GB free
e: (FAT32 on drive 1)	159.99 GB	46.69 GB free

Nybbles and Bits

By John Pearce, Chair, WebBoard, Pikes Peak Computer Application Society, CO
February 2010 Bits of Bytes, Newsletter of the P*PCompAS
http://ppcompas.apcug.org
Glenihan (at) comcast.net

Last month, I mentioned an article in TechRepublic regarding removing old drivers from your system. Little did I know that issue was going surface in my notebook computer that I upgraded to Win 7. The touchpad on my notebook computer has a vertical scroll area at the right side of the pad. I had no problems using the vertical scroll until I upgraded to Win 7 at which point, it stopped working.

I ignored the problem until just after the January PPCompAS meeting. When I started to investigate and tried to access the settings for the touchpad, there was a pop-up dialogue box telling me that IntelliPoint was blocked from running because of known incompatibilities with Win 7. It took me a few minutes to remember that I had bought a USB mouse and installed Microsoft IntelliPoint software shortly after purchasing the notebook. I had used the USB mouse until I bought a Logitech wireless mouse a year or so ago.

My first thought was to just remove the offending software. Good idea except there was nothing shown for IntelliPoint in the Programs and Features list and nothing for the USB mouse in the Mice section of Device Manager. Connecting the USB mouse made it appear in Device Manager and caused IntelliPoint to appear in the Programs list. I thought I was close to being done. Surprise, surprise! Trying to perform an uninstall of the software produced the pop-up about IntelliPoint being blocked. I wondered how you could uninstall it if it was blocked from running. This time the pop-up dialogue box provided a link to an update and I performed the update. After the IntelliPoint update completed, the vertical scroll on the touchpad worked correctly. However, I decided to remove IntelliPoint because I no longer use the USB mouse and could not think of a good reason to leave the software installed.

This is the first time I can remember where it was necessary to upgrade software just to remove it. I expect the Win 7 upgrade did not upgrade the IntelliPoint software because the USB mouse was not connected at the time the upgrade was performed. Maybe next time I will remember that USB devices should be plugged in during an upgrade and to make the related software and drivers visible. Even better would be to remove old drivers as TechRepublic suggests.

iPad Shoppers Beware

By Gregory West, Member of Computers Operators of Marysville and Port Huron (C.O.M.P.), Michigan
http://www.bwcomp.org/
prospector16 (at) gmail.com

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

If you are bent on getting an iPad don't read any further. However, if you are trying to decide between buying a laptop and an iPad this article is for you.

I like my laptop because I can load any software, connect any device such as a digital camera, memory stick, backup drives, by USB connections. I like the idea of being able to load free software from any company or source and not be restricted to one company such as Apple.

"Your computer should be yours to control," said Peter Brown, the Free Software Foundation's executive director. "By imposing such restrictions on users, Steve Jobs (APPLE CEO) is building a legacy that endangers our freedom for his profits (The Microsoft Blog)."

For me, choosing a laptop is simple: Macbook. I run Windows XP and Windows 7 on my Mac laptop without a glitch. Of course there are many other laptops, notebooks and net books that work great too and all of them avail you the opportunity to install third party applications, many at no cost.

The iPad has landed in North America and is creating huge hype. Rightfully so! It is a wonderful device allowing for various functions. According to Wikipedia the iPad "is part of a device category between a smartphone and a laptop computer." This may be true but it is not close to my Macbook laptop, not by a long shot.

For starters the hard drive is only 16 to 64 gigabytes (GB) of flash memory (a technology that is primarily used in camera memory cards). My laptop is 250 GBs and with a terabyte hard drive connected by USB. I now have a grand total of 1274 GBs of hard drive space. Very different from 16 to 64 GBs of the iPad.

The iPad's 9.7-inch (25 cm) screen has a low end resolution of 1024 X 768. What this tech talk means is that the iPad will not support HDMI video which many have come to love. With high definition the rave...Why go back to a lesser screen resolution. This does not make sense.

Other features lacking in the iPad are: no camera, no webcam, no multitasking, no drag and drop file management, no USB port, no SD slot, no Flash, no HDMI out, no 1080p playback, and no native widescreen. Are we going backwards here? In 2005 it was "the Year of High Definition Video," according to cnet.com. How come the iPad lacks these features?

Many are saying the iPad has its neat functions and is esthetically appealing. Just make sure you are getting the exact features you require in any tech device. Do your homework on this one.

*Gregory West is a Mac Instructor for Lambton College in Ontario, Canada.
He is also Webmaster at Central United Church, the home of the new COMMUNITY Computer Room at: http://central-united-church.org/news*

CLUB SUPPORTERS

Humor:

"When you're in jail, a good friend will be trying to bail you out. A best friend will be in the cell next to you saying, 'Damn, that was fun.'"
---Unknown

Humor :

"Have no fear of perfection, you'll never reach it."
- Salvador Dali

July 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 General meeting 6:30	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 New/ Intermediate Sp. Int. grp.	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

The New Orleans Personal Computer Club (NOPCC) is a private non-profit organization chartered under the State of Louisiana. Its purpose is to provide an open forum for discussion and education of the membership in the use and application of PCs, peripheral equipment and software. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the NOPCC , its members or its officers. The club does not verify for accuracy the articles in this newsletter and leaves verification of accuracy to its readers. Articles in this newsletter may be duplicated as long as credit is given to the author (s) and the NOPCC. Annual Dues Schedule: Regular Member, $40/yr.; Family Membership, $60/yr.; and Students (under 21) , $20/yr. Meetings are held at 6:30 on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Harahan Senior Center, 100 Elodie, Harahan, Louisiana.

NOPCC Directory

Elected Officers

President	Walt Christensen	president@nopc.org	982-3705
Vice President	Mike York	vp@nopc.org	738-5997
Secretary	Ray Paternostro	secretary@nopc.org	737-9099
Treasurer	Kevin Kratzberg	treasurer@nopc.org	460-9337
Director At Large	Tom Gaffney	director1@nopc.org	
Director At Large	Bill Howard	director2@nopc.org	831-1279
Director At Large	Mary Prinz	director3@nopc.org	

Standing Committees

Newsletter	Kevin Kratzberg	editor@nopc.org	460-9337
Public Relations			
Publicity	A J Levy	pr@nopc.org	
Webmaster	Mike York	webmaster@nopc.org	738-5997

Special Interest Groups

Computer Programming	Ray Paternostro	mike@gnonug.org	738-5997

Other Important Numbers / Addresses

Club Hotline	Recorded messages. Meeting Information. Open 24 Hours	887-5746
NOPCC Web Site	On the World Wide Web. Our own home page and club information.	www.nopc.org