

Mother Board

Volume 28, Issue 6

June 2, 2010

This Month

***What to do with
the Picture after
you Click the
Shutter!***

***Harahan Senior
Center
Wed, June 2nd
6:30 pm
102 Elodie St
Harahan, LA 70123***

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Controlling System Restore

By Vinny La Bash, Member and Regular Columnist, Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc., Florida
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Did a shareware application you were enamored of turn out to be an unmitigated disaster? Perhaps a device driver installation, system update or modification to a registry key went bad, and your system wandered into an alternate universe. Windows has a utility called System Restore that takes a picture, called a Restore Point,

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This Month at the NOPCC

6:30

7:00 **What to do with the picture after the click!**

Jason Kruppa is an accomplished photographer and graphic designer whose work covers portraiture, fine art, weddings and fashion. He has in the past worked as a teacher and promotes self-education as a life-long pursuit.

***Wed June 2nd
Harahan Senior Center
102 Elodie St
6:30 pm***

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of your system before certain types of operations are started. System Restore is a very handy feature that allows you to go back in time to erase actions you have come to regret. If a problem occurs you can revert back to the way things were, and all is well again.

System Restore, for all its utility and convenience, has its drawbacks. Some argue that if there is not enough free disk space, System Restore will fail to create a restore point, so an unsuspecting person may discover that there is no restore point available when trying to put things back to normal. There is also no way to make a permanent restore point that will not get deleted after a time when automatic restore points need the disk space. This could be a predicament if a problem is intermittent.

It is possible that System Restore may be responsible for your disk drive running out of room. While today's super-sized drives make that less likely than a few years ago running out of disk space could still happen, especially if you load up your system with videos. You can reduce that likelihood even further by configuring System Restore properly.

The snapshots we talked about in the first paragraph are taken by a built-in program called the Volume Snapshot Service (VSS). There is no way to access this utility in the standard Windows Graphical Utility Interface (GUI). This means you can't get to it with a menu option. You need to open a Command Prompt window with elevated administrator privileges.

Click on the Start orb located down at the

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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 May 12th.
7:00pm

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at New Horizons
3rd floor.

Please park in rear parking garage (free).

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 priority during meeting.

More complete answers and less delay during meeting.

Look for NOPC

Twitter.com
Yahoo Groups - nopc_help

Convert a PDF File to a Text File

*By Sr. Dorothy Robinson, Newsletter Editor, The OMUG News
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Have you been wishing you had a piece of software that would convert PDF files to text files that you can edit? And maybe also didn't cost an arm and a leg?

BCL Technologies has such software called easyConverter Desktop that costs about \$20. That sounds like a good buy to me. But it only works with Windows (2000, XP, Vista and Win 7). So that leaves a lot of people, namely Linux users, out in the cold.

The good news is that BCL also has a free, online utility that does the same thing. And your operating system doesn't come into it. Open your browser and go to <http://pdfonline.com/pdf2word/index.asp> and take a look.

On the left side, under a header that says "Convert PDF to Word for Free" you'll see a place to browse your computer and select a file. Note that there is no need to provide your email address, since you'll just download the file directly.

Find your file and double click it (or click once then click Open), then click the Up-

load and Convert button. Press it *only once*, and wait; larger files may take a while to upload. The conversion is pretty fast, under a minute for the one or two page files I tried. There is a 2 MB limit on uploads, so really big files won't work.

This part is where, if you wanted to do a lot of files, or large ones, it would be great to have an application on your computer to do it—thus eliminating the time to upload.

The next step is downloading the text file. I'm not sure why the instructions say to Right Click on the link to download the file, because for me at least it didn't work. I **Left** Clicked instead and the download dialog opened.

You'll see that the file is a rich text file (.RTF or .rtf) which can easily be opened by Word, OpenOffice Writer, Abiword, or other word processors or text editors and be available for editing. When you save it you can save it as a .doc if you like.

The dialog asks, What should (your browser) do with this file? The first choice is to open the file with the default application (mine showed OpenOffice) or you can choose another from a drop-down list. The second choice is to save the file, and if you choose Save the file, your download manager will save it to the default location—or you might get a Save as dialog and choose where to save it. One caution: opening the file directly rather than downloading it got me a Read Only file, which of course I couldn't edit. So for editing purposes, save the file before opening.

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Make your choice by clicking a radio button, then click OK. You now have a text file you can edit. And the quality is very nice, too—for **mostly text** documents. I tried a PDF file that I had originally created in OpenOffice Writer which contained a calendar in a table. The results were not pretty! And for a postal PDF which was a requisition form using tables, the results were somewhat better but still unusable since the tables overlapped, hiding some of the text.

On the other hand, I made a list of data (several rows and columns) in an OpenOffice spreadsheet, exported it to PDF, then uploaded it and converted it. When I downloaded this file, it was perfect—and perfectly editable.

For me, using Ubuntu Linux, this free, online version is a good thing. Windows users have a choice of the web version or the computer application. And pdf2word gives the best results I've seen for this kind of web application.



The screenshot shows the PDF2Word Online website. At the top, there is a logo for "PDF Online" with a red arrow pointing to a document icon. To the right, there is a "FOLLOW US ON twitter" button. Below the logo, there is a navigation bar with links for "Doc2PDF Online", "PDF2Word Online" (which is highlighted), "Web2PDF Online", and "PDF S". Below the navigation bar, there is a "SHARE" button with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. The main heading is "Convert PDF to Word for Free". Below the heading, there is a question: "What do you think about this free service ? [Let us know.](#)". The main content area is a light gray box with a grid pattern. It contains the text "Select a PDF to convert to Word" and a "Choose File" button. To the right of the button, it says "No file chosen". Below this, there is a bullet point: "• You don't need to provide your email address. The Word document will be ready immediately after the conversion is done." Below the bullet point, there is a warning: "Press this button only once. Large document may take some time to upload." At the bottom of the box, there is an "Upload and Convert" button.

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Con't from page 2

bottom left corner of your screen, select All Programs, and open the Accessories folder. Right click on the Command Prompt icon, and then select Run as Administrator from the menu. That will open up a Command Prompt window with enough authority to configure System Restore.

Before doing any configuration, let's take some time to understand how System Restore works. You can do this with the vssadmin tool. At the Command Prompt type `vssadmin /?` (Press Enter after typing a command.)

You see a list of all the commands supported by the utility.

(Note: Shadow copy = Restore Point)

Enter the command `vssadmin list shadows`

This displays a list of all the restore points currently on the system.

The `list shadowstorage` command displays the amount of disk drive space currently being used to store restore points, how much space is set aside to accommodate restore points, and the maximum permitted size for restore points.

To see what's available on your own system, at the Command Prompt type:

```
Vssadmin list shadowstorage
```

Take a few minutes to understand the way the information is

displayed. If there is enough free disk space you can store up to 64 restore points before Windows automatically starts deleting old re-

store points to accommodate new ones.

Making backups is an essential task, but there is no reason why Windows should be allowed to consume every available byte of storage with System Restore points. The default settings allow Windows to run amok but you can reset the maximum value with the `resize shadowstorage` command.

Here is an example:

```
Vssadmin resize shadowstorage /for=c: /on=c: /maxsize = 12GB
```

The `/for=` switch specifies the disk drive where the storage space is to be resized.

The `/on=` switch tells Windows where to save the Restore Point.

The `/maxsize=` switch tells Windows how much space it can use for Restore Points.

If you don't specify a maximum size you are giving Windows permission to do anything it wants. The minimum size is 1GB. I have seen references stating that the minimum size can be as low as 300MB, but I could not verify that information.

After entering the `resize` command the system needs to be restarted to take effect. Configuring System Restore points won't solve every problem you may have with Windows, but it will give you more control of how Windows allocates resources.

CLUB SUPPORTERS

THE SECRET GUIDE TO COMPUTERS

The Secret Guide is available at every New Orleans Personal Computer Club General Meeting. The latest printing is available for only \$15.00. Or contact Ray Paternostro either at: secretary@nopc.org or (504) 737-9099.



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Servers . Workstations . Networking . Maintenance

Humor:

We should eliminate birthdays or lie.

Inspiration:

“Life isn’t about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain.”
Author unknown

June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	General 2 Meeting 6:30	3	4	5
6	7	8	New intermedia te user sig 6:30	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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

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President	Walt Christensen	president@nopcc.org	982-3705
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Special Interest Groups

Computer Programming	Ray Paternostro	mike@gnonug.org	738-5997
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Other Important Numbers / Addresses

Club Hotline	Recorded messages. Meeting Information. Open 24 Hours	454-6050
NOPCC Web Site	On the World Wide Web. Our own home page and club information.	www.nopcc.org