

RB Balch PC Tips Newsletter, January 2007 – Windows Vista

Reflections of **Better Business**

Your guide to technology and an error-free computer environment

By: **RB Balch & Associates, Inc.** Full service, award winning computer consulting firm. Serving AZ since 93.

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SPECIALS THIS MONTH

JANUARY – NEW YEAR SPECIAL. Have you been considering a new computer? New year, new equipment. Consider replacing older equipment (generally more than 4 year's old). We'll even help. \$50 off your bill for setup of a new computer (out of the box setup); estimate about 2 to 3 hours for setup and updates, plus may be additional time depending on the amount of data to transfer from an old computer to a new one, and the number of applications to install and setup.

As you may know, we sell Dell products – contact us if we can help you with a new computer (workstation, laptop or server). Just give us a call.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Contact us at 623-561-9366 OR at help@rbbalch.com OR online from our website www.rbbalch.com to schedule online. If you schedule online, you'll save an additional \$5 off your next appointment.

REMOTE TECHNICAL SUPPORT. Contact us for remote technical support - it's easy, fast, less interruptions at the office and less expensive for you! (1/2 hour minimum)

Our motto: "you don't have a problem until you have a problem". Think about it. Contact Rochelle at rb@rbbalch.com.

2 TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTER TIP

Windows Vista – new operating system – not so fast to upgrade

Prepared by RB Balch IT Consultant Mike Schrock

Microsoft's Windows Vista is schedule to come out in early 2007. But, before upgrading there are a few things to consider. Will your computer 'handle' Vista or is your current version fine for you? Also consider, like all new products, perhaps waiting a bit before jumping in too quickly.

Before you get out and buy an upgrade, you'll need to also consider your hardware, as the new operating system demands may be higher than you currently have in place.

There are several versions of Windows Vista to be released; see below for some comments on Home Basic and Business.

Some highlights of Home Basic include the Windows Firewall and Windows Defender – tools to help protect your computer from outside intruders and spyware. Parental Controls, helps parents manage their children's computer down to how much time the child can be on the computer at one time.

Advanced Search Tools, helps you find the files and programs you are looking for quickly and easier.

Home Basic Edition requirements: the minimum requirements *include at least* 512MB of RAM and at least 20GB of available hard drive space. **However**, the **recommended** requirement for *Home Basic Edition* is 1GB of RAM, 80GB hard drive space and an upgraded graphics processor.

Some highlights for Business include the same Home Basic features, plus: better security protection against software that will change settings such as spyware, malware, or malicious websites. Remote Procedure Call, or RPC, can lock the registry and not allow programs to be installed without the users consent. Windows Vista will warn you before it runs out of memory that could lead to loss of data or system corruption. Windows Vista also has a variety of backup options so you can protect your vital data.

Remote Desktop is also included so you can access you Business Edition computer basically from anywhere you have a good internet connection.

Business Edition requirements: the minimum requirements *include at least* 1GB of RAM, upgraded graphics processor, and 80GB hard drive space. **However**, the **recommended** requirement for *Business Edition* is 2GB of RAM, and 120GB hard drive space.

Carefully consider whether or not you need to, or want to upgrade, before you begin any new installs.

Any questions on software options? Contact us at help@rbbalch.com 623-561-9366 or Rochelle directly at rb@rbbalch.com OR schedule on-line at www.rbbalch.com

3 Andy's Did You Know?

By Andy Karpel, the "A lot about nothing" expert

MONTH: JANUARY

Birthstone: Garnet Meaning: Constancy

Color: Indigo, Green, greenish-blue

Flower: Carnation, Snowdrop

Astrological Sign(s): Capricorn (The Goat) Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Aquarius (The Water Carrier) Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Moon Phases: Jan 3 Full – Jan 11 Last – Jan 18 New – Jan 24 1st Qtr

Monday, Jan 1 New Year's Day

Saturday, Jan 6 Feast of the Epiphany- Three Kings Day

Monday, Jan 15 Martin Luther King's Birthday

Tuesday, Jan 16 Operation Desert Storm begins (1991)

Thursday, Jan 18 Chinese New Years The year of the Pig.

Friday, Jan 26 Australia Day

Saturday, Jan 27 Apollo fire in module kills Lt. Col. Virgil "Gus" Grissom, Lt. Col. Edward H. White, and Lt. Cdr. Roger Chafee.(1967)

Andy's "I didn't know that"

Saturday, Jan 6 Feast of the Epiphany- Three Kings Day. Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar were the three kings (also known as the Three Wise Men) who saw the star over Bethlehem when Christ was born. They followed it to find the Christ child on January 6th.

Monday, Jan 15 Martin Luther King's Birthday - Born on January 15, 1929, at 35, he became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace prize. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968 while making a speech from the balcony of his hotel room in Memphis, TN. His Birthday became a National Holiday by an act of Congress in 1983.

Thursday, Jan 18 Chinese New Years. The year of the Pig. Chinese Year 4705 - January 18, 2007. It's the year of the Pig, a Yin year (a negative year). The date changes every year. It is a 15 day celebration, beginning on the first day of the new moon, and ends on the full moon. The celebration on the 15th day is called the Lantern Festival. In Chinese astrology, every year is represented by an animal. The cycle is twelve years, with a different animal each year. Every person is born under one of these animals that also dictates your personality and character. To find out more about your sign, see Chinese Astrology. Chinese New Years is the biggest holiday in Chinese culture.

Friday, Jan 26 Australia Day is a national holiday in Australia celebrating national pride and culture, and an opportunity to recognize and enjoy accomplishments.

Just like Andy (and now you have the facts)

Gabriel Daniel Fahrenheit born in 1686 in Danzig, Poland, and was raised in Holland and England. After failing as a merchant, he developed an interest in meteorology. Among his contributions were a pumping device for draining the Dutch polders; a hygrometer, for measuring atmospheric humidity; and a thermometer that used mercury instead of alcohol.

He developed a temperature scale, too. On his scale, 32 degrees is the freezing point of water, and 212 degrees is the boiling point. This scale is called Fahrenheit. Later a Swede from Stockholm would suggest a more logical scale, with a temperature range of 0-100. His name was Anders Celsius.....AND now you have the facts.

YET MORE important information

What is the smallest country? A country need only be an independent state, with distinct territorial boundaries, and its own government. CLUE: It is in at a mere 0.17 miles, it holds the title of being the smallest country in the world.

Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?

Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack??

"Put all your eggs in the same basket, and Watch that Basket."

- Mark Twain [b. Samuel Langhorne Clemens] (1835 - 1910)

"A thousand words are worth a picture - and they load faster, too." – Unknown

Answer: Vatican City

4 Community Update

College classes, SPRING 2005. Classes for FALL. Contact GCC for registration.

Andy will be teaching Self-Promotion - ART255AA and The Portfolio - ART255AB, M and W, 8 weeks. Beginning in Feb 07.

UPCOMING: FEBRUARY 2007. Rochelle is the keynote speaker and honoree for Na'amat's Annual Woman of the Year Luncheon.

RB Balch is proud member of:

Arizona Small Business Association (ASBA) - Chamber of Commerce - National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) - Better Business Bureau (BBB).

5 RB Balch. WHY do we issue this and WHO are we?

WHY: Purpose of this newsletter?

To help you learn more about technology and computers

To be informal and informative

To answer specific questions asked by readers

....To continue our commitment of keeping you informed

Reflections of **Better Business** (published since 1994) is for employees, clients, friends and associates of **RB Balch**.

WHO ARE WE: RB Balch. Computer-consulting firm. Established 02/93. Experienced. Reliable. Ethical. Good. Revenues since 1993 over \$20 million. Our mission is to be your one source solution for all of your computer needs. Consider us your "computer guy", your IT department. We're only an email or phone call away.

SERVICES: PC Field Support, Software Development Projects, Business/Marketing Consulting, Seminars & Keynotes.

PC Field Support: PC troubleshooting, network installation and maintenance, server and workstation setup/support, hardware and software upgrades, virus and spyware detection & repair, data recovery, backup/restore, programming, web design, web and email hosting, more. Troubleshooting is our specialty. Contact us as needed, or set-up recurring regular maintenance appointments (discounted, no contracts, no pre-paid bundle of hours required). We come to you.

Software Development Projects: PC development, no job too small. We specialize in projects 1 to 500 hours (longer projects also accepted). New or maintenance. Simple changes or complex systems. Programming, Databases, Web design, Contingency plans/strategy plans, etc. Available nationally.

Business Consulting: Utilize technology to help you grow your business - we're here to help. IT strategies, Disaster/recovery planning, IT security audits. Marketing and promotional plans.

Seminars, Keynotes: Technology and Motivational workshops, keynotes and lunch programs for your staff or association. As a successful entrepreneur and award winning business owner, Rochelle Balch, president RB Balch and international professional speaker (member of the National Speakers Association), is available for programs for technology, team building, marketing and business, and personal development. Get everyone on the same page to understand technology in your company. Mention this newsletter for discount off speaking fees. For sample topics see

<http://www.rochellebalch.com>

Appointments: We offer, and highly recommend, regularly scheduled PC maintenance appointments. We offer on call/as needed service and emergency service. We are available weekends/evenings/holidays, and on special retainer, if required. No pre-pays, change frequency or

cancel maintenance appointments at any time. Contact us at help@rbbalch.com, at 623-561-9366, or visit our web site at www.rbbalch.com for on-line scheduling. Contact Rochelle Balch directly at rb@rbbalch.com or contact Andy Karpel directly at andy@rbbalch.com if you like.

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MAINTENANCE

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