

RB Balch PC Tips Newsletter, MARCH 08 – End of life for WIN XP is coming

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. "**Providing easy technology answers to confusing technology issues**". tm

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SPECIALS THIS MONTH - Celebrating 15 years!

MARCH - SPECIAL THIS MONTH. Did you know...GOLD clients enjoy reduced rates? Priority scheduling? Phone support? A Primary tech assigned...and backup staff? AND a better running office. And NO CONTRACTS to sign. Sign up during March and **receive \$25 off your first GOLD appointment.**

REMINDER: we can help you "build" a new computer online with Dell – we do not markup – same pricing ordering with us or from Dell. We can order for you (no fee to order when we bring and setup for you).

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 offices 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.

FREE GIFT: at your next appointment, ask your technology consultant for one our new handy memo pads and pens.

2 TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTER TIP

THIS MONTH: End of life for Windows XP

Are you ready for VISTA?

Microsoft has announced that Windows XP will go end of life on June 30th of this year. This means that on July 1, 2008, only Windows Vista will be available as an operating system on a new desktop or notebook. Windows Vista Business SP1 will be released soon and this should address a number of issues that some people have encountered. Microsoft will support Windows XP for a while with updates, but it will not be available on a new PC.

What does this mean to you? If you are running older software or hardware (printers, plotters, more) that are not Vista compatible, you'll need to either upgrade everything.....or purchase any new computers you were thinking about within the next few months (with Windows XP Pro).

If you're thinking you can take the copy of Windows XP that came with your old computer and move it..think again. It was most likely an "OEM" version – meaning it stays with the old computer and cannot be moved to another computer.

IMPORTANT: The bottom line is this: If you are running older or non-Vista compatible software – or any hardware that is non-Vista compatible – AND you don't upgrade – AND you need to add or replace equipment after 06/30/08 – you'll be stuck. There is an excellent chance that your software will not run on the new computer and you will not be able to function adequately in your office. You definitely need to consider upgrading now – on your time schedule. Don't wait until it's too late (and you're in a critical situation).

It appears the inevitable is drawing near....you can buy a little time . . . but the time is coming.

If you are using software and other equipment that is VISTA compatible, nothing to worry about.

VISTA itself does have some nice features - your main concern should be whether or not your business critical software will run. For an office, purchase VISTA Ultimate (NOT a home version).

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

Have an idea for a topic? Just let us know – or send in your questions to help@rbbalch.com. Was this article helpful? Please let us know.

3 Andy's Did You Know?

By Andy Karpel, the “A lot about nothing” expert

MONTH: MARCH

Birthstone: Aquamarine, Bloodstone - Meaning: Courage

Color: Pale Blue to Pale Green

The two birthstones for March are aquamarine and bloodstone. The name aquamarine is derived from the Latin word aqua, meaning water, and marina, meaning the sea. This gemstone was believed to protect sailors, as well as to guarantee a safe voyage. Aquamarine is said to cool the temper, allowing the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded. Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green and the color usually is more intense in larger stones.

Found mainly in Brazil, but also found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique. The second birthstone for March is bloodstone, a dark-green jasper with vivid red spots of iron oxide. This ancient stone was used by the Babylonians to make seals and amulets and was believed to have healing powers — especially for blood disorders. It is sometimes called “the martyr's stone.” Legend tells that it was created when drops of Christ's blood stained some jasper at the foot of the cross. Generally found embedded in rocks or in riverbeds as pebbles, primary sources for this stone are India, Brazil, and Australia.

Flower: Daffodil, Jonquil

Astrological Sign(s): Pisces (The Fish) Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

Aries (The Ram) March 21 - April 19

Moon Phases: March 7 New -March 14 1st Qtr March 21 Full - March 29 Last Qtr

Monday, March 3 Star Spangled Banner became the National Anthem (1931)

Thursday, March 6 Dentists Day (for all you Anti-Dentites)

Sunday, March 9 DST (But don't touch that clock in AZ and see below**)

Wednesday, March 12 Happy Birthday SL in Oregon, a faithful reader

Wednesday, March 12 Girl Scout Day (watch for those cookies!!!)

Saturday, March 15 Ides of March

Sunday, March 16 Palm Sunday

Monday, March 17 St. Patrick's Day

Thursday, March 20 Spring (Vernal) Equinox - (First Day of Spring)

Friday, March 21 Good Friday

Friday, March 21 Purim

Sunday, March 23 Easter

Sunday, March 23 Patrick Henry "Give me liberty, or give me death!"(1775)

Sunday, March 30 National Doctor's Day (Yep they have a day also)

Andy's "Image That" March 9th is that time of the year - The official spelling is Daylight Saving Time, and NOT Daylight SavingS Time. Saving is used here as a verbal adjective (a participle). It modifies time and tells us more about its nature; namely, that it is characterized by the activity of saving daylight (WOW!).

Many people feel the word savings (with an 's') sounds better. Daylight Savings Time is also in common usage, and can be found in dictionaries. Adding to the confusion is that the phrase Daylight Saving Time is inaccurate, since no daylight is actually saved. Daylight Shifting Time would be better, but it is not as politically desirable. AND REMEMBER just in case you're in one of these areas Daylight Saving Time is NOT observed: Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, **and Arizona**. Well you never know from what area someone reads this important useless information...."image that".

Andy's "I didn't know that" A few March holidays you might not know about. March 15 - The Ides of March. The first day of the Roman New Year. It also marks the first day of spring in the Roman calendar. On this day in history, Julius Caesar was warned by soothsayers to "beware of the Ides of March". Apparently, he did not heed the warning strongly enough as he was stabbed by Marcus Brutus on the Ides of March in 44 BC.

March 21 - Purim A two day event. Purim is the most festive of the Jewish Holidays. The festive holiday centers around Queen Esther, King Ahasuerus (or Achashverosh), Mordechai and Haman. The event took place in the Persian Empire in the fifth century, B.C. It is a celebration of a major victory against oppression of the Jews at that time.

"Just like Andy" March 3rd - "The Star-Spangled Banner" was officially made the national anthem by Congress in 1931. On Sept. 13, 1814, Francis Scott Key visited the British fleet in Chesapeake Bay to secure the release of Dr. William Beanes, (a friend of Keys) who had been captured after the burning of Washington, DC. The release was secured, but Key was detained on ship overnight during the shelling of Fort McHenry, one of the forts defending Baltimore.

In the morning, he was so delighted to see the American flag still flying over the fort that he began a poem to commemorate the occasion. First published under the title "Defense of Fort McHenry," the poem soon attained wide popularity as sung to the tune "To Anacreon in Heaven." The origin of this tune is obscure, but it may have been written by John Stafford Smith, a British composer born in 1750. The lyrics were published in a Baltimore newspaper on September 20, 1814.

Throughout the 19th century, "The Star-Spangled Banner" was regarded as the national anthem by most branches of the U.S. armed forces and other groups, but it was not until 1916, and the signing of an executive order by President Woodrow Wilson, that it was formally designated as such . Then in March 1931, Congress passed an act confirming Wilson's presidential order, and on March 3 President Hoover signed it into law.....**AND now you have the facts.**

YET MORE important useless information –

Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety-one?

Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do, write to them? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen can look for them while they deliver the mail?

Is it true that you never really learn to swear until you learn to drive?

As income tax time approaches, remember when you put the two words "The" and "IRS" together, it spells "THEIRS"

Quotes

"If a man can beat you, walk him".....Leroy (Satchel) Paige

"I never thought home runs were all that exciting. I still think the triple is the most exciting thing in baseball. To me, a triple is like a guy taking the ball on his 1-yard line and running 99 yards for a touchdown". Hank Aaron

"Every day is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday's success or put its failures behind and start over again. That's the way life is, with a new game every day, and that's the way baseball is."Bob Feller

"Trying to sneak a fastball past Hank Aaron is like trying to sneak the sunrise past a rooster".....Joe Adcock

Helpful note: Incase you don't know these quotes have to do with baseball since it's almost spring training



4 Community Update



RB Balch is proud member of:

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

Andy will be teaching Art Marketing and Self-Promotion - ART255AA at Glendale Community College, beginning Feb 04 for 8 Weeks.

Rochelle will be speaking for at a two day financial conference in Denver, in September - on Technology and Boosting Your Business.

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. IT Computer Consulting firm. Established 02/93. Experienced. Reliable. Ethical. Good. Revenues since 1993 are over \$23 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 - IT Consulting, Software Development Projects, Business/Marketing Consulting, Seminars & Keynotes.

PC Field Support – IT Consulting: 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 GOLD 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 GOLD 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.

MAINTENANCE

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Your email address is absolutely only used by us at RB Balch.

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