

RB Balch PC Tips Newsletter, JUNE 08 – MIGRATING TO VISTA

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Reflections of **Better Business**

Your guide to technology and an error-free computer environment

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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!

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JUNE – eSAVER REMOTE. With gas prices rising, technology can help us all save a little money. Did you know....we offer remote support service? We can do many, many tasks remotely - for example: check for spyware, updates, clean up your desktop, install software (you put in the CD on your computer). You could plug in a printer, and we can download and setup printer for you and share it with other networked computers, check backups, etc. REMOTE service is a .5 hour (1/2 hr) minimum (vs. 1 hour minimum when onsite). SO, if you've thought about a regular onsite visit, but wasn't sure if you had enough to do...try eSAVER remote.

REMINDER: We are a registered Dell Partner and can assist you with "building" your new computer online – same pricing ordering with us or from Dell directly. We can order for you (no fee to order when we bring and setup for you). Terrific offers now through mid to late June on Dell computers.

DONATIONS: THANK-YOU to all of you who donated computers for the Perryville Women's prison complex (in Goodyear). They will now be able to use Windows XP computers...instead of some older Windows 95. These donated computers will be used by many women would like to study for their GED and other courses, but the software only runs on Windows XP.

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). As simple as going to a web site.

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.

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2 TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTER TIP

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THIS MONTH: MIGRATING TO VISTA

BY ANDREW SHELDAHL, RB Balch staff

Are you ready for VISTA?

The time is drawing near. Microsoft has announced it will no longer offer WINDOWS XP on computers sold after June 30th. There is some discussion that computer vendors may be able to offer VISTA, with "downgrade" rights to WINDOWS XP - but this is not confirmed.

What does VISTA really mean to you? Some issues & concerns to be consider and to start planning for include:

Software vendors: Confirm with your critical software vendors whether or not their software will run under the new operation system. More and more software is being converted - but there is some that you will be required to BUY/UPGRADE for VISTA.

Peripherals: Items such as printers, plotters, scanners, copiers, phones/PDAs, and others may requires some upgrades or, at least, new "drivers" to be installed.

Crisis mode: Don't wait until the last minute. Check the above items now. In the event a critical PC crashes, as you are required to purchase a PC with the new operating system, don't be caught having to also upgrade your critical software at the same time. Plan in advance. If in doubt, test.

Service pack: In the beginning....there were operational issues with VISTA causing problems. Many of the issues surrounding compatibility and speed have been address with "SP1" - service pack 1. While some features may be annoying, they are meant as additional security features and actually are better.

Transition: Plan for transition to the new operating system. There will be a learning curve....and it may not be too fun. Staff who travel may have a more difficult time if they run up against an issue and no one in the office can assist. Plan for this change.

REMINDER: Plan for expenditures, install time, test time, learning curves.

EXCERPT from our MARCH08 newsletter:

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. 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 upgrade.

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.

Any questions on 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: JUNE

Birthstone: Pearl, Moonstone, Alexandrite Meaning: Health and Longevity

Color: White, Green

There are 3 gems as birthstones this month. Historically, pearls have been one of the favorite gems for centuries. Since the 1920s, cultured pearls have almost completely replaced natural pearls in the market. According to Indian mythology, they were dewdrops from heaven that fell into the sea. They were caught by shellfish under the first rays of the rising sun, during a period of full moon.

Black pearls can be found in the Gulf of Mexico and waters off some islands in the Pacific Ocean. The Persian Gulf and Sri Lanka are well-known for exquisite cream-colored pearls called Orientals. Other localities for natural seawater pearls include the waters off Celebes in Indonesia, the Gulf of California and the Pacific coast of Mexico.

The Mississippi River, and forest streams of Bavaria in Central Europe contain pearl-producing freshwater mussels. Alexandrite a relatively modern gem, and first discovered in Russia in 1831. Its color is a green

in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light. Due to its rarity, some jewelers keep synthetic versions of this gemstone. The third birthstone is the **Moonstone**.

It was given its name by the Roman natural historian, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon — a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century. Moonstones show a floating play of light (called **adularescence**) and sometimes show either a multirayed star or a cat's eye. Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune.

It comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne. The most prized moonstones are from Sri Lanka; India, Australia, the United States, Myanmar, and Madagascar are also sources.

Flower: Rose, Honeysuckle

Astrological Sign(s): Gemini (The Twins) May 21 - June 21

Cancer (The Crab) June 22 - July 22

Moon Phases: June 3 New – June 10 1st Qtr – June 18 Full – June 26 Last Qtr

Sunday, June 1 "Don't give up the ship!" Capt Lawrence, US Chesapeake. (1813)

Thursday, June 5 Bobby Kennedy is assassinated. (1968)

Friday, June 6 D Day, (1944 WWII)

Saturday, June 7 The United Colonies name change to The United States. (1775)

Tuesday, June 10 Ben Franklin flies a kite in a lightning storm (1752)

Saturday, June 14 Flag Day

Sunday, June 15 Father's Day

Tuesday, June 17 The Statue of Liberty arrives in New York City. (1885)

Saturday, June 21 Summer Solstice (The longest day of the year!)

Saturday, June 28 Treaty of Versailles is signed, ending WW I (1919)

Andy's "Image That" Well I'm still waiting. I did what all those emails told me to do; I sent the email to 10 people like it said. I'm still waiting for that miracle to happen. I also added my name to the ones that said to add my name. And still nothing. So to all my friends who in the past years who sent me best 'wishes', chain letters, 'angel' letters do this or do that letters or other promises of good luck and fortune if I forwarded something or did whatever, **WELL NONE OF THAT CRAP WORKED!**

For 2008, could you please just send money, chocolate, movie or airline tickets or more importantly gasoline vouchers instead. Save those other miracle deals to your other friends. Thank you!"**image that**"....

Andy's "I didn't know that" Pearls are created within certain species of oysters and clams. Some pearls are found naturally in mollusks that inhabit the sea or fresh water settings such as rivers.

However, many pearls today are cultured - raised in oyster farms. A pearl is created when a very small fragment of rock, sand grain or parasite enters the oyster or clam. It irritates the mollusk, who responds by coating the foreign material with layer upon layer of shell material.

Pearls formed on the inside of the shell are usually irregular in shape and have little commercial value. However, those formed within the tissue of the mollusk are either spherical or pear-shaped, and are highly sought out for jewelry.

The color of the pearl depends very much on the species of mollusk that produced it, and its environment. White is perhaps the best-known and most common color. However, some pearls also come in delicate shades of black, cream, gray, blue, yellow, lavender, green and mauve. Japan is famous for its cultured pearls. Some cultured pearls are bred in large oyster beds in Japanese waters. An "irritant", such as a tiny fragment of mother-of-pearl, is introduced into the fleshy part of two to three year-old oysters. The oysters are then grown in mesh bags submerged beneath the water and regularly fed for as long as seven to nine years before being harvested to remove their pearls.

Cultured pearl industries are also carried out in Australia and equatorial islands of the Pacific. Pearls were also widely used as medicine in Europe until the 17th century. Believed it was a cure for various kinds of diseases, as well as insanity. Pearls have also been used as medicine as early as 2000 BC in China, where it was believed to represent wealth, power and longevity. Even to this day, lowest-grade pearls are ground for use as medicine in the Orient.**"I didn't know that"**

"Just like Andy" When do I display my American Flag? National Flag Day is always the **14th day of June**. National Flag Week is the week of June 14th. Flag Day was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day. And under US Code Title 36, Subtitle I, Part A, Chapter 1, President calls on government officials and/or American citizens to display the flag on the following holidays:

National Flag Day/Week	Week of June 14 th
Thomas Jefferson's Birthday	April 13 th
Loyalty Day	May 1 st
Law Day	May 1 st
Mother's Day	May - 2 nd Sunday
National Maritime Day	May 22 nd
Peace Officers Memorial Week	May - Week of the 15 th (Display at Half-Staff)
Father's Day	June - 3 rd Sunday
Nat. Korean War Veterans Armistice Day	July 27 th
National Aviation Day	August 19 th
Citizenship Day	September 17 th

Gold Star Mother's Day	Sept. - Last Sunday
Patriot Day	September 11 th (Display Flag at Half-Staff)
Columbus Day	October - 2 nd Monday
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	December 7 th

And additionally, US Code Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 6 states that the flag should be displayed on all days, weather permitting, **and especially on:**

New Year's Day	January 1 st
Inauguration Day	January 20 th
Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday	January - 3 rd Monday
Lincoln's Birthday	February 12 th
Washington's Birthday	February - 3 rd Monday
Easter Sunday	varies year to year
Mother's Day	May - 2 nd Sunday
Armed Forces Day	May - 3 rd Saturday
Memorial Day	May - Last Monday (Display Flag Half-Staff til noon)
Flag Day	June 14th
Independence Day	July 4 th
Labor Day	September - 1 st Monday
Constitution Day	September 17 th
Columbus Day	October - 2 nd Monday
Navy Day	October 27 th
Veterans Day	November 11 th
Thanksgiving Day	November - 4 th Thursday
Christmas Day	December 25 th

WOW I sure didn't know this.....AND now you have the facts!

YET MORE important useless information

My mind works like lightning, one brilliant flash and it is gone.

Definition of a husband is someone who, after taking the trash out, gives the impression that he just cleaned the whole house.

My next house will have no kitchen, but will have vending machines and a large trash can.

I was worried that my mechanic might try to rip me off. I was relieved when he told me all I needed was turn signal fluid.

As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.

Quotes

"If you are ashamed to stand by your colors, you had better seek another flag.".....Anonymous

"The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself."
.....Ben Franklin

“A person is only as big as the dream they dare to live.”.....Unknown

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).

RB Balch is a Dell register partner.

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.

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MAINTENANCE

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

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