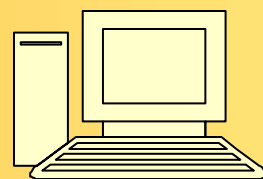


# BAY BYTES

Greater Tampa Bay Personal Computer User Group, Inc.



Newsletter

Issue 12

December 2011

24th Year of People Helping People!



## In this Issue

Officers for 2012	2
SIG Leaders for 2012	3
Back up your hard drive	4
Back up your hard drive	5
Partition your hard drive	6
Partition your hard drive	7
What is "Ratware" ?	8
What is "Ratware" ?	9
Computer Lady Help	10
Some things to look into...	11
The lighter side	12

Don't forget to visit our club's site at:  
<http://gtbpcug.org>

## To all the members

As we get closer to 2012, I want to extend my thanks to those members who renewed their commitment to continue serving our group as an officer or SIG leader for the coming year.

Since our group has close to 100 members, one would think it wouldn't be difficult to get a few members to help run our club for one year or two. Thanks to the ones who stepped forward.

This time it looks like the spirit of helping the club did prevail, for which I am most grateful and thankful.

As everyone knows, if the club doesn't actively take care of its membership, particularly potential new members, our group will inevitably wither away.

If you have never been one of the leaders in the past, PLEASE consider becoming one in the future.

In conclusion, our group can continue to be as successful as it has been only if the members themselves see to it that the necessary leadership positions are filled.

As you all can see all our officer and SIG leader positions have been filled for the coming year.

I as your former president I will take on the position as membership chair and will do my best to help the club to continue.

In the meantime, my best wishes to everyone for the holidays and a healthy and prosperous 2012.

Your president in 2011

Jo Ann Brawner



### Officers elected for 2012

President	Gary Staley	
Vice President	B. Brock	
Secretary	Patrick Courtney	
Treasurer	Nestor Bonilla	
Program Chair — Co Chair	Sherry Foecking — Peggs Stuart	 
Membership Chair	Jo Ann Brawner	
Newsletter Editor	Al Droll	
Web Master	Parker Monroe	
Internet SIG	Jerry Harris	
Windows SIG	Darrell Manns	
MS Office	Sherry Foecking	

## Of course, also continuing their support to the club in 2012 are our SIG leaders:

**Sherry Foecking** with her expertise in MS Office and other office software related subjects.

**Darrell Manns** with his knowledge in Windows XP software, special programs and gadgets applied to the operating system.

**Jerry Harris** always has answers where the Internet and Networking are concerned. He also answers questions on other subjects as well.

**Parker Monroe** the all-round PC man seldom gets stuck with questions he does not have answers for.

Not to forget all the others filling in to lend a helping hand to make the evenings a success.



## **When to Backup Your Hard Drive**

*By Gene Barlow*

*User Group Relations*

*Copyrighted November 2011*

This past week, my computer failed and I was left without a working computer. Yes, computer failures happen even to the experts! Fortunately, I practice what I preach and had several good backups to use to rebuild my computer system. In fact, while rebuilding my computer system, I made additional backups to protect me as I worked through this problem. Everything is working perfectly now thanks to my backups.

This experience got me thinking. As a backup expert, I know when to do different types of backups. I was concerned that many of my customers and friends that don't have this knowledge may not know what to do in backing up their computer system. So, I thought I would share some of my experience in this area with you this month.

As a beginning, every user needs to do a basic backup process that I describe in my tutorials and documents (<http://www.ugr.com/nl0804.html>). This is a full image backup of your entire main hard drive done each week with the images stored on an external hard drive. If you do no more than this, you will be well protected. However, there are other important times when additional backups are needed. Let me explain.

The following is a list of important times to do additional backups of your computer system:

- 1- When you first buy a new computer is an ideal time to immediately back it up before you start to make changes to the computer. This will give you a basis to return to when your computer was clean and working.
- 2- When you decide to do backups, get a copy of **Acronis True Image Home 2012** from us and an external hard drive from your local computer store. Follow the instructions in the *Starter Guide* I provide my customers, to do your first backup immediately. Don't wait months before you do your first backup. It may be too late then.
- 3- I recommend separating your important data files from your program files on the hard drive. Then, you can backup your important data files daily and your less critical program files weekly. This will give you much better protection of the files that are most important to you.

See a paper I wrote on this subject at <http://www.ugr.com/nl0608.html>

- 4- Always do a full hard drive backup immediately before you partition that hard drive and then do another full hard drive backup after the partitioning is completed. This will let you return to where you were before partitioning, if anything should go wrong with your revisions.

*Continued on the next page*

5- I recommend doing a full hard drive backup just before you install any major new software product on your computer. Software installations can mess up a computer when things go wrong. Having a full backup to use in those situations is a great protection.

6- Today, we see lots of Speed-Up and Clean-Up utilities on the market. These promise great improvements of your systems. However, you must trust these programs to work correctly. Unfortunately, they may over clean your computer and important files and function may be lost. Always do a full backup before using these types of utilities.

7- From time to time, we must take our computers into the experts to be fixed. Often, the computer will be returned to you with all of your programs and important data files removed from the hard drive. Sure your computer works now, but you are missing many important things from your hard drive. Make sure you always do a full hard drive backup before leaving your computer at the repair shop.

These are just a few of the many important times to do a backup of your main hard drive. Set up your backup program to run automatically on a regular basis, but don't forget to do extra backups when you are faced with any of these special situations.

*This is one of a series of technical articles that I distribute to those that have subscribed to this newsletter.*

You can subscribe at <http://www.ugr.com/NewsletterRegistration.html>.

*Watch for them and learn more about your computer and its hard drive. If you do not want to receive these newsletters, simply reply and ask to have your name removed from the list and I will do so immediately. User group newsletter editors may print this article in their monthly newsletter as long as the article (between the two horizontal lines) is printed in its entirety and not cut or edited. Please send me a copy of the newsletter containing the article so that I can see what groups are running the articles.*



## **Why Partition Your Hard Drive**

*By Gene Barlow*

*User Group Relations*

*Copyrighted December 2011*

I am sure that most of you have heard of partitions on your hard drive, but may not be totally aware of what they are or why you would want to use partitions on your hard drive. A partition is simply a portion of your hard drive that has been specially prepared with a File System so that it can store your program and data files on the drive. Each partition you create on your hard drive is given a drive letter to make it easier to find and retrieve the files later. You can have a single partition on a hard drive or there can be many partitions on the drive. Most users have a single c: partition on their hard drive and perhaps one or two other hidden partitions put there by the computer manufacturer.

Adding additional partitions to your hard drive is very easy to do with the right tools. The purpose of this article is to suggest several reasons why you may want to add additional partitions to your hard drive and to introduce you to a software tool that will make doing this very easy to do.

### **Protecting your Important Data Files**

The number one reason that your hard drive crashes is because the Windows operating system becomes corrupt and brings down your entire c: partition. Viruses also attack your c: drive. When this happens, other files in your c: partition may be lost. However, files in other partitions on your hard drive will probably be untouched by the crash.

For this reason alone, the c: partition is the most risky partition on your hard drive and the one most likely to crash. If you set up other partitions on your hard drive and keep your important data and photo files in these other partitions and not in the c: partition, these files will probably be safe when your c: drive crashes.

### **Organize your Hard Drive with Partitions**

Computers today come with very large terabyte main hard drives. To leave such a large hard drive with only one c: partition does not make much sense. If your hard drive is very large, you should divide it up into 3 or 4 smaller partitions and then store different types of files in different partitions.

I suggest you use your c: partition just for the Windows operating system and all of your application programs installed on your computer. Then you should have another partition just for your important data files, for example your spreadsheets, your written documents, your financial records, your genealogy database, and other important data files. Finally, I would suggest a separate Photo partition to contain all of your digital photographs, your video clips, and your scanned pictures. By organizing your large hard drive this way, your computer will be much easier to use.

*Continued on the next page*

## Gain Flexibility in Doing Backups

Finally, having more than one partition on your hard drive can give you added flexibility in doing your backups of your main hard drive. Today, doing full partition backups is vastly superior to the old file backup approach. Partition backups handle entire partitions including Windows and your application programs as well as your important data files. So, running a good partition backup utility like **Acronis True Image Home 2012** is the best way to do backups today.

If you carefully separate your files into different partitions, then you could backup the different partitions on a different schedule. For example, I would backup my Program Partition (c:) only once or twice a month. However, my important Data Partition, I would back up daily or at least every 2-3 days. My Photo Partition, I would only back it up when I have actively saved new photos to it. So, having separate partitions for these types of files lets you back them up on a schedule that is important to each type of file.

*Partitioning made easy with **Acronis Disk Director** from Gene Barlow's [Website](#)*



## Is Your Internet Security up to Date?

**Antivirus up to date?**

**Firewall?**

**Windows up to date?**

**Spy Ware?**

**See how to protect your computer at:**

<http://www.gtbpcug.org/protect/>



### More about Internet Threats

#### What Exactly Is Spamming 'Ratware'?

#### How Does Ratware Work?

**Answer: "Ratware" is the colorful name for any mass email software that generates, sends, and automates spam email sending.** Ratware is the tool that professional spammers use to pummel you and me with obnoxious email that advertises pharmaceuticals and pornography, or attempts to lure us into email phishing scams.

Ratware usually falsifies ("spoofs") the source email address from which it sends its spam. These false source addresses will often smear a legitimate person's email address (e.g. FrankGillian@comcast.net), or take on an impossible format like "twpvhoeks@" or "qatt8303@". Spoof source addresses are one of the telltale signs that you have been attacked by ratware.

#### Examples of Ratware Mailout Messages:

- "We carry the most popular medications" (peddling pharmaceuticals)
- "You've been sent an Insta-Kiss" (phishing scam to steal your identify information)
- "STEAMY HOT LESBIAN ACTION LIVE ON CAMERA" (peddling pornography)
- "F R E E 60-Second MORTGAGE qualification" (identity theft)
- "HURRY HURRY hot stock about to go through the roof" (pump and dump email scams)
- "You have 14 new pictures" (phishing scam)
- "Where are you?" (peddling pornography)
- "Best Sale Prices on iPhones" (phishing scam)
- "All orders shipped from authorized locations" (peddling pharmaceuticals)
- V\*i\*a\*g\*r\*a for cheap (peddling pharmaceuticals)
- 

*Continued on the next page*

**Ratware exists to achieve four purposes:**

To furtively connect to Internet servers or private Internet-connected computers, and take over their email systems temporarily.

Send massive numbers of emails in a very short time from those hijacked computers.

To disconnect and mask any digital trail of their actions.

To do the above three actions automatically and repeatedly.

Ratware is often used in conjunction with botnet remote control software, harvesting software, and dictionary software. (see below)

**How Does Ratware Work?**

Ratware needs to be covert, and it needs to achieve mass volumes of messages. To achieve covertness and secrecy, ratware traditionally has used port 25 to bypass most ISP email blocks. In the last five years, port 25 has now become tightly monitored and controlled by about half of the private Internet service providers.

Locking down port 25 has been problematic, though, because it also restricts business customers from running their own email services for their employees. Many ISP's with large business customers have chosen to leave port 25 open for their legitimate customers, and use other firewall techniques to shut down spammers who attempt to stealth onto their networks and send spam.

Because of port 25 and other defenses, spammers have had to evolve to other clandestine means to send their obnoxious emails. 40% of successful ratware spammers use the parallel activity of using "zombies" and "bot" computers... legitimate people's machines that are temporarily turned into spam tools against the knowledge of their owners. Using insidious "worm" programs like Sobig, MyDoom, and Bagle, spammers sneak onto people's private computers and infect their machines. These worm programs open up secret doorways that allow spammer-commissioned hackers to take remote control of the victim's machine, and turn it into a robotic spam weapon. These hackers will get paid anywhere from 15 cents to 40 cents for each zombie computer they can acquire for their spam employer. Ratware is then unleashed via these zombie machines.

To achieve mass volumes, ratware uses text-generation programs that will take massive lists of email addresses, and then send them spam messages. Because less than 0.25% of spam emails are ever successful in winning a customer or deceiving a reader, ratware must send mass amounts of spam emails before it becomes effective. The minimum successful batch send is about 50,000 emails in a single burst. Some ratware, depending on the kinds of computers it hijacks, can send over 2 million messages in ten minutes. Only at these volumes does spamming become profitable in peddling its pharmaceuticals, pornography, or phishing scams.

**Where Does Ratware Get My Email Address?**

There are four dishonest ways that ratware gets email addresses: black market lists, harvested lists, dictionary lists, and unsubscribe scam lists. [Click here](#) for details on these four dishonest methods.

**Where Do You Get Ratware Software?**

You will not find ratware tools by Googling the Web. Ratware products are secret, often custom-made, applications created by talented but unethical programmers. Once created, successful ratware programs are sold privately between dishonest parties, not unlike arms dealers selling weapons.

Because ratware software is illegal and contravenes the CAN-SPAM Act, programmers will not just give ratware away for free. They will only give ratware software to those who will pay them enough money to make it worthwhile.

**Who Has Been Caught Using Ratware Software?**

Jeremy Jaynes and Alan Ralsky are two of the most famous spammers who have been convicted. The two of them earned over 1 million dollars in illegal profit from spam.

## Help from the Computer Lady

<http://askthecomputerlady.com/questions/>

The letter:

Dear Elizabeth,

What does it mean when I receive an e-mail which is supposed to include a photo but where the photo is supposed to be there is a large blank box with a small red "x" in the upper corner?

Love your Newsletter and have learned much from reading it. Sure helps this tired old head figure out complicated "stuff".

Thank you from a fan.

Marcia

Dear Marcia,

I get different variations of this question just about every week, so I am going to take another shot at trying to explain what it means and why.

When you are looking at an email, or a webpage and there is a box with nothing but a red X in the corner, this means that there is supposed to be a picture in that box, but the picture file is unavailable.

There are several reasons why the picture might be unavailable.

The most common reason is that your email program has blocked the pictures.

Most email programs will do this to help protect you from malicious software.

The email program will also provide a way for you to turn pictures back on though.

In Microsoft Outlook, email messages with blocked pictures will have the following text at the top of the message:

"Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook has prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message."

All you have to do to view the pictures is click on that message.

In my Gmail window, I see a message near the top that says,:

"Images are not displayed" with a link below that I can click on to display the images.

The second most common reason you will see a box with the red X is that the image is just not available. This is commonly seen with AOL email messages. For some reason, when a person with an AOL account sends an email to someone outside of AOL, the images are just not available. In this case, the recipient can't do anything to view the images, just ask the sender to try sending the pictures in a different way.

On web pages, you might also see the little box with a red X. This indicates that there is supposed to be an image, but the image file is not where it should be. Again, this is not something you can fix, the web designer needs to either upload the image, or fix the HTML code that points to the image.

Elizabeth

*You can read this article online, view & leave comments at:*

<http://wp.me/pwwRq-19p>

*Submitted by Gary Staley*

## Some things to look into...

[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=XVTga6GmbGw&vq=medium](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=XVTga6GmbGw&vq=medium)

How do they do that??

<http://www.cybia.co.uk/imageinc.html>

Some photographers like to create interesting effects by blending two photos. In the film days, this required darkroom tricks or a camera capable of multiple exposures. Now, with digital software, you can do this entirely on the computer. You don't need expensive software either. Image Inc. is a free program that can help you combine multiple photos. You can use it to stack two images on top of each other. Controls are included to fine-tune opacity, blending style, position and scale of each photo. You can also add masks to isolate certain areas.

**Tip** Speed up IE 8:

This simple procedure might be worth a try to speed-up IE 8.

Go to: Start >Run >type in: CMD > at the curser type in: regsvr32 actxprxy.dll

(Notice the space between: 2 and a) !

Press Enter

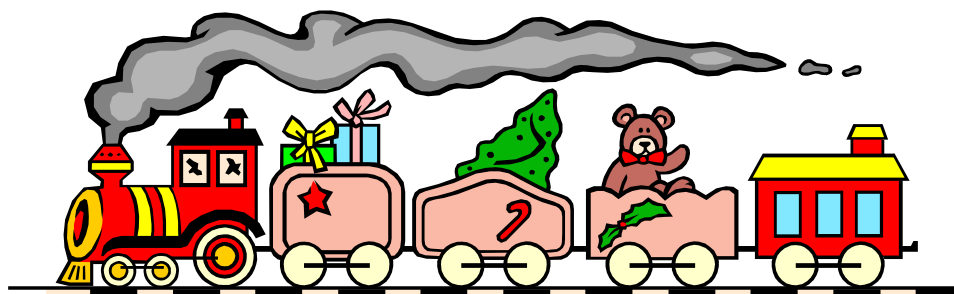
After you see: "DllRegisterServer in actxprxy.dll succeeded" >click OK and restart the PC.

<http://www.dban.org/>

Getting ready to dump that old PC? Hang on just a second. You might be giving away your sensitive personal information. Deleting files using the Recycle Bin is not good enough. Deleted data can hang around your hard drive for quite a while. Anyone can recover it with a free program.

Deleted data can hang around your hard drive for quite a while. Anyone can recover it with a free program.

The only way to completely secure your computer is to wipe the hard drive. That's where Darik's Boot And Nuke comes in handy. DBAN will wipe and overwrite your drive several times so nothing is recoverable.



## The lighter side

### The History of the Internet

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot. And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. And indeed did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside. It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

That is how it all began. And that's the truth.



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