



# BVCC News

## BVCC Officers

Chair: Fred Schneider  
Vice Chair.: Kent Mulliner  
Treasurer: George Hartwell  
Secretary: Gerry Salisbury  
Newsletter Editor: Len Nasman  
CLUB EMAIL:  
bvclub@roadrunner.com

**Help Wanted...** to create a new masthead for the newsletter. If you need a project to practice your computer drawing and/or painting skills give it a try and send your files to the newseditor@bvres.org

Email questions or comments to:

[newseditor@bvres.org](mailto:newseditor@bvres.org)

## Under the Hood

### Customizing your Windows interface

by Len



**NOTE:** The following article is for those who would like to mess around with changing a basic windows setting. It contains information that will change how Windows Explorer works. Would-be computer geeks can give it a try, others may want to review the article just to get an idea of things that go on behind the scenes in Windows.

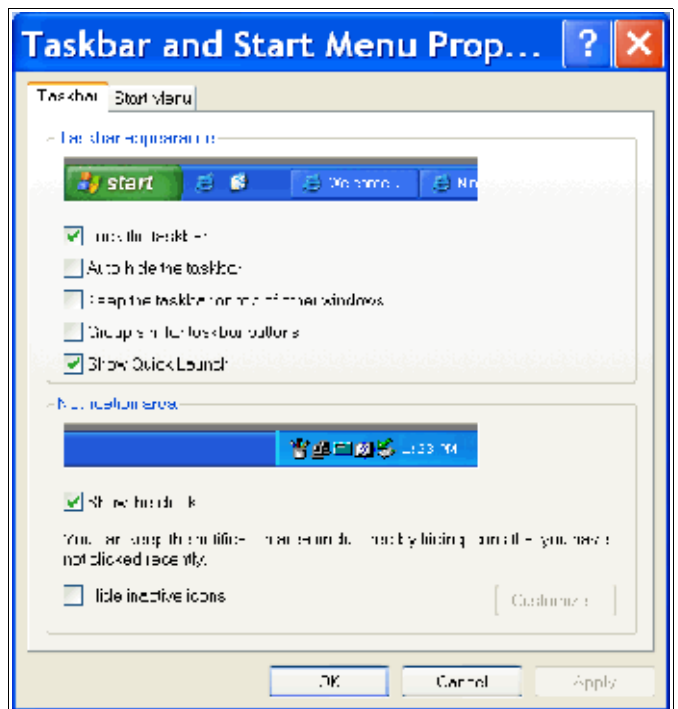
If you use *Windows Explorer* frequently, and you should, you might like a one click button that will open Windows Explorer exactly where and how you like it. Here is a way to do so.

The first thing to do is to adjust the *Task Bar* settings. The Task Bar is the horizontal area across the bottom of most Windows displays.



The taskbar has its own set of *Properties* that can be adjusted.

*Right-click* on an empty area of the **Task Bar**, then select **Properties** from the pop-up menu. This opens the **Task Bar and Start Menu Properties** dialog box.



In the illustration, the **Task Bar** tab has been selected in the **Task Bar and Start Menu Properties** dialog box. If the **Lock the Task Bar**

option is checked, it must be unchecked before changes can be made to the Task Bar.

If necessary, uncheck the **Lock the Task Bar** option. Check the **Show Quick Launch** option, then select the **OK** button.

The **Quick Launch Task Bar** will appear as part of the **Task Bar**. When the **Task Bar** is not locked, thin vertical lines will appear on the left and right sides of the Quick Launch section of the **Task Bar**. The size of the Quick Launch **Task Bar** section can be changed by moving the cursor over one of these lines, and when the cursor shape changes to a double arrow.



When the Quick Launch **Task Bar** is in place, you can add shortcut icons to it by dragging and dropping them from the Desktop onto the **Task Bar**.

**(Dragging and dropping means positioning the mouse cursor over an icon, clicking and holding the left mouse button down, and, while holding the left mouse button down, move the mouse cursor to the new location.)**

The next trick requires that a shortcut to Windows Explorer is on the Quick Launch **Task Bar**. To add the shortcut do the following.

Select **Start, Programs, Accessories**, and drag and drop the **Windows Explorer** icon in the Quick Launch **Task Bar**.

Once the Windows Explorer shortcut is on the Quick Launch **Task Bar**, you can open Windows Explorer with one click on the icon. Give it a try.

The default settings for Windows Explorer opens a window with My Documents in the Desktop highlighted as shown in the following illustration.



This is not usually where most folks want to look when they are using Windows Explorer. The next steps will show how to adjust a setting that will make Windows Explorer open to whatever location you prefer.

✓ **Right-click on the Windows Explorer shortcut icon and then select Properties from the pop up context menu.**

This opens the **Properties** dialog box.



The preceding illustration shows the Windows Explorer Properties dialog box with the Shortcut tab selected. Observe the contents of the text box to the right of the word **Target**. This line of text tells Windows Explorer how to behave when the shortcut is selected. By carefully editing this line of text, we can direct Windows Explorer to open at a location of choice in the collection of files stored on the computer.

Note that the syntax in the text line must be exact, or the *Target* function will not work. If you mistype a change, you can always change back to the default command.

**%SystemRoot%\explorer.exe**

The above text is the default command line.

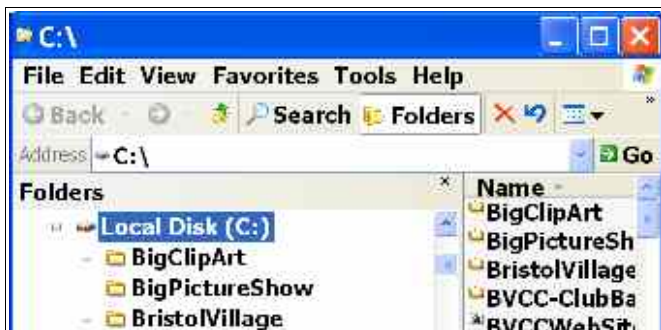
✓ Edit the Target text line as follows:

**%SystemRoot%\explorer.exe /e,c:**

There must be a space after explorer.exe followed by a forward slash then the letter e, then a comma, then the letter c followed by a colon.

After editing the text, select the Apply button, then click on the shortcut to see if the change works.

Windows Explorer should now open directly to the **C:** drive as shown above.



We can have Windows Explorer jump even deeper into the system file structure. Note in the example above that there is a folder in hard drive **C:** with name **BristolVillage**. With a little more editing, Windows Explorer will open directly to that folder.

**%SystemRoot%\explorer.exe /e,c:\BristolVillage**

Note that to add an additional folder to the path, the **C:** is followed by a \ not a /.

If I am working on the webmaster work station computer, I am more often than not looking for files in the BristolVillage folder. So, setting Windows Explorer to open directly to that folder saves a bit of time. Perhaps you might find this trick helpful for your exploring.



## An email tip from Mel Grossman

Enjoyed the January Newsletter as always, reminding me of a little trick that I use to put my mind to ease about mailings with attachments. Maybe it's overkill, but I include my own address as a blind copy (**Bcc:**) so that I can check the mailing to see that it all "mailed" okey.

[Editors note: The **Sent** option in email programs provides a way to keep copies of the mail you have sent. However, Mel's tip actually results in a copy of the email being delivered to your **In Box**. This verifies that message made it through the world wide web mail delivery system.]



## FAQ

Here are a couple of frequently asked questions from Smart Computing magazine. (Copies of Smart Computing are kept on file in the computer room for members to borrow and read.)

Will my PC run faster if I add more memory to it? Will more RAM enhance Web browsing?

**Answer:**

Although memory doesn't have any effect on a PC's processing power, additional memory can

improve the apparent speed of some memory-intensive programs by reducing the system's use of virtual memory. Virtual memory allocates a portion of hard drive space and uses it when necessary to emulate RAM. Thus, when the supply of RAM becomes low, the system starts to store data in virtual memory. The problem with this is that hard drives run much slower than RAM, so swapping data into and out of virtual memory can slow down your application. Memory-intensive apps, such as CAD (computer-aided design), are particularly vulnerable, and some systems can slow to a crawl simply because the PC is continuously waiting on virtual memory. In these cases, adding RAM can provide a dramatic boost in "apparent performance" (even though the CPU is still running at the same speed).

Internet apps, such as browsers, are generally more limited in speed and performance by the online connection and bandwidth. So, adding another 512MB of RAM won't make your Web pages load any faster, but moving from a slow dial-up connection to a broadband service will enhance your Web experience significantly.

---

## From the BVCC Chairman

Kent Mulliner has accepted the position of BV Computer Club Vice-Chair through June 30. Bob Cunningham, our longtime serving Vice-Chair, has resigned from your Computer Club Committee

Kent and his wife, Lian, are new residents. They reside at 216 Lee Circle. Both are retirees from Ohio University. Kent is presenting our February meeting on the 9th.

*Thank you, Fred Schneider*



---

## Password Confusion?

It is easy to get confused by computer passwords. To start with, Windows provides an option of requiring any user to enter a password when logging on. This password is associated with starting the computer, not with accessing email or Internet sites.

Your email host will also require a user name and password. Remember that your email host may or may not be the same as your ISP (Internet Service Provider).

Some web sites also require a user name and password to access your personalized space. Examples of this include on-line banking and Ebay accounts.

If you order things from Internet companies, they will usually require you to create a user name and password. If you order frequently from a web store, you can save a little time by creating an account.

Many programs provide an option to have the computer remember passwords so that the next time you visit the program, the password will automatically entered for you. (If you are using a public computer you should never have the computer remember a password.)

After a while, you will end up with a long list of user names and passwords to remember. To keep from going a little strange in the head, you should maintain a special file where you add every new user name and password. Such a file can save aggravation when you need to recall an infrequently used password.

---

## Computer Room Notes

Our Oki printer has had an organ transplant. After printing nearly 20,000 color pages, the image drums had to be replaced.

Unlike the liquid found in ink jet cartridges, the Oki color printer uses 4 colors of dry powder. The image drum is a roller that transfers toner powder to the paper in a laser printer. The powder is then heated and fused to the paper making a moisture proof copy.

Entry-level laser printers are now cost-competitive with ink jet printers. If you are shopping for a new printer, consider a laser printer. Also, if you want to use a printer with more than one computer, choose one with a network connector and/or wireless capability.

## Web sites to try

**Feeling poorly? Check these out.**

**<http://www.mayoclinic.com/>**

For technical discussions...

**<http://www.merck.com/immulse/c08.html>**

To get general information about a particular problem, enter then name of the problem in Wikipedia. The articles there frequently will include a list of references for further research.

**[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)**

National Institute of Health web site...

**<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/medlineplus.html>**

A medical encyclopedia...

**<http://healthguide.howstuffworks.com/medical-encyclopedia.htm>**

American Academy of Family Physicians ...

**<http://familydoctor.org/online/famdocen/home.html>**

A general Google search using words to describe a condition can also lead to information sources.

**<http://www.google.com/webhp?hl=en&tab=nw>**



## Visit the BVCC Web Site

**<http://www.bvres.org>**

Forget where you put back issues of the BVCC Newsletter? Don't worry, back issues are available on the [www.bvres.org](http://www.bvres.org) web site.

February is not too early to start checking for spring in the Wildflower Woods.

