



Bristol Village Computer Club

May, 2009

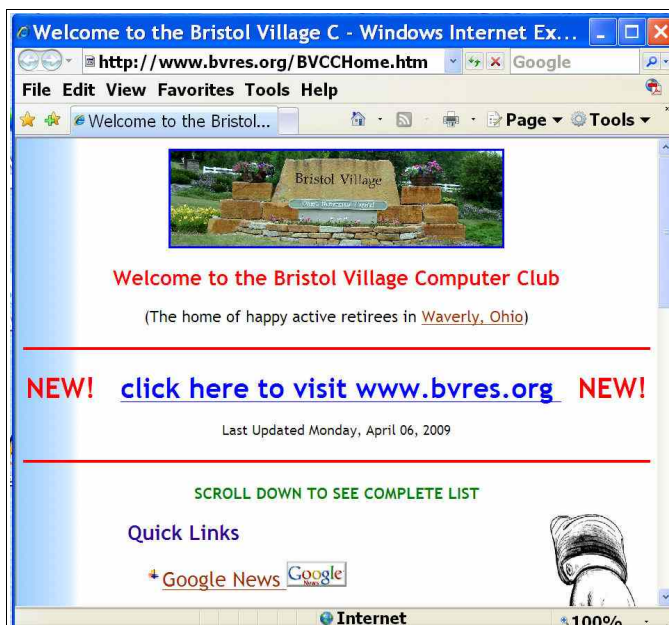
Under the Hood Windows Font Sizes



As eyes grow older, small text on computer displays becomes harder to read. The question is, how can the text be made larger.

As per usual, the answer is 'It depends.' There are a lot of different parts of a computer display that contain text, and controlling the text size in these different areas may require different techniques.

Let's jump ahead a bit and assume you are reading an on-line newspaper article. Up to date news articles are easily found from the BVCC Home Page. Simply click on the **Google News** link and then click on a headline to jump to an article.



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If you are using Mozilla Firefox, or Internet Explorer version 7 or higher, there is a quick and easy way to enlarge the text on the web page display. (Note that **older versions** of Microsoft Internet Explorer do **not** have this feature.)

Press **Ctrl +** on the keyboard. This means to hold the key marked **Ctrl** down and, while holding it down, press the **+** key. (Actually either the shifted **+** key on the keyboard or the separate **+** key on the numeric key pad will work.) Each time you press **Ctrl +**, the text size will increase. To reduce the text size, press **Ctrl -**.

So much for Internet Surfing. What about email? If you are using Yahoo Mail or Gmail, or other web based email programs, the **Ctrl +** trick should work, since you are actually looking at a web page with your browser. If you are using Mozilla Thunderbird (a free but powerful email program that carries no advertising), the **Ctrl +** trick works there as well.

If you are using Outlook or Outlook Express, you are out of luck as far as the **Ctrl +** trick goes. However, Outlook Express does provide a way to change the font size for reading mail.



Here is how to change font size in Outlook Express. From the Outlook Express Menu Bar, select Tools, Options. In the Options dialog box, select the Read tab, then select the Fonts button. In the Fonts dialog box, select the Font size scroll arrow and select a larger font size.

What about the font size in non-Internet programs? Most software written for the Windows operating system uses a Windows standard interface. Many parts of a Windows display are controllable through general Windows Display Properties settings.



In Windows XP for example, you can open the Display Settings dialog box by *right clicking* on an empty area of the desktop and then selecting **Properties** from the pop up menu. The Appearance tab provides a font size box where you can choose between Normal, Large, and Extra Large Fonts.

This dialog box also has an **Advanced** button that can be selected to get to additional settings. In the **Advanced Appearance** dialog box, a scrolling text box has a list of items that can be changed. The upper part of the dialog box shows the current appearance of some items.

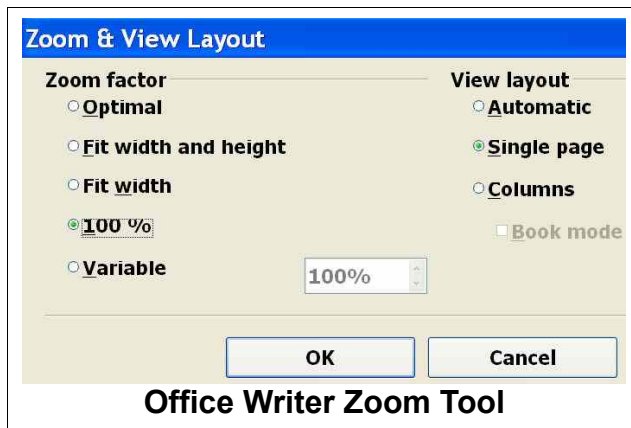


If you select a windows and buttons setting other than Windows Classic, it will override the following settings, except in some older programs.

There are several items I like to change. I usually increase the font sizes for the **Menu Bar** and the **Tool Tips**. The Tool Tips are the little text boxes

that pop up when you hover the mouse cursor over a tool icon. I sometimes also change the size of the **Icon** text. This is the text that appears under the desktop shortcuts. If the icon text is enlarged the horizontal and vertical icon spacing may also have to be changed.

Some programs have their own controls that override Windows appearance settings. To find these try Tools, Options from the Menu Bar, or in some cases, Edit Preferences.



Office Writer Zoom Tool

Beginning word processing users sometimes change the font size in a document to make it easier to read on the display. This is *not* the best technique since the word processing text font will be used for printing the document. Programs such as Office Writer or Microsoft Word have a way to change the display without changing the font size. Look for a **zoom** tool on the tool bar, or from the Menu Bar select **View, Zoom** to change the display size without changing the document font size.

Remember, your eyes have seen a lot of hard work in their day, so make it easier on them by taking control of the computer display.

Gaming for Good

by Kent Mulliner

Want to try a little mental stimulation while doing good? The site “Free Rice” www.freerice.com offers a multiple-choice intellectual game for which

the reward for each correct answer is free rice (a donation of ten grains of rice to the United Nations World Food Program to end world hunger).

It offers a variety of subjects: famous paintings, chemical symbols (basic), chemical symbols (full list), English grammar, English vocabulary, identify countries on map, world capitals, language learning (French, German, Italian, or Spanish), basic math (pre-algebra), and multiplication table.

Within each subject there are a number of levels (60 for English vocabulary). A sample question from level 10 of that subject is: **veto** means: 1)reject, 2)stomp, 3)depend 4)corrode. Clicking on “1)reject” earns 10 grains of rice to fight hunger. If you wish, there is an option to have the word (or term) in question pronounced.

The good works aspect of “Free Rice” is possible through the sponsorship of various large multinational corporations/organizations (e.g., Unilever and citi), which make the donations in exchange for mention on a prominent banner below the main game screen. In practical terms, you are renting your eyeballs (attention) to combat world hunger. Yet you are also engaging in a fast-paced (if you want it to be), mentally challenging, enjoyable game. The site offers a list of ten personal benefits from playing but enjoyment and doing good should be enough. Thanks to Myrth Zambon for piquing my interest in this site.



From the BVCC Chairman Club Email Address Change

Please make a note of our new club email address.

bvclub@bvres.org

Please add this to your address book and remove any earlier address.

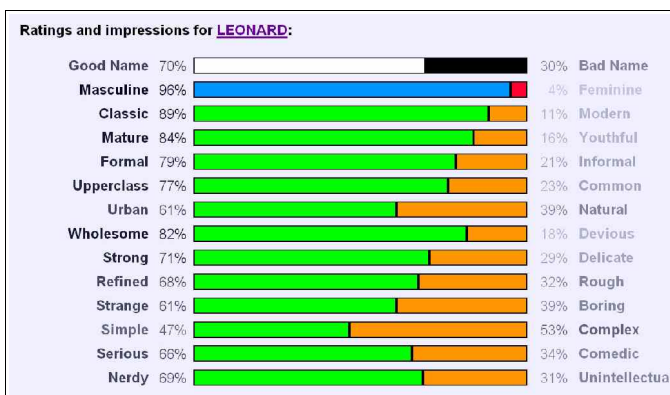


The popularity option shows a graph of date vs frequency.



Above is an example for the name Leonard. The popularity of Leonard peaked around 1920.

Give your name a try. BTW, I bet you did not know that there are 8 Saints named Leonard.



You can check to see how your name is rated by some unnamed group of name raters. I am a little

surprised that I am only rated strange by 61% of the raters. If people knew about this newsletter article they might change that rating.

If you get side tracked onto the general subject of names, you might discover that here in Bristol we have a number of people with palindromic names like Anna, Bob, Eve, Hannah, Nan, and Otto.

Quiz time!

Do you know what the following type of sentence is called?

Step on no pets.

How about...

Was it Eliot's toilet I saw?

Or...

Now I see bees, I won.

OK, here is your final clue...

a man a plan a canal panama

Answer...

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palindrome#More_examples_of_English_palindromes

