Bristol Village Computer Club
May, 2017
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Next Computer Club (BVCC) Meeting

Audience questions, tips and techniques.

May 8, 6:30PM Glenn Center

Also on BVTV

If you are reading this on your computer using Acrobat Reader, remember that **Acrobat Reader** has a ***zoom*** feature (under "**View**" in your top tool bar) for enlarging or reducing text and graphics. Also, look for hot links in the Newsletter. You can click on these to jump to the web page being discussed.

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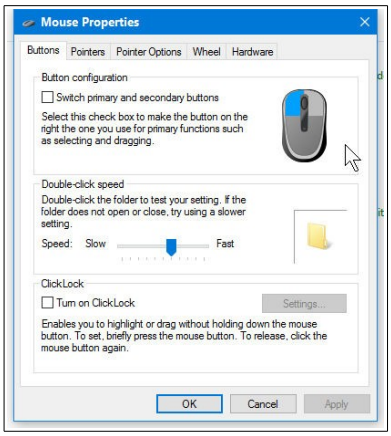
Newsletter Contents

Mouse Tricks

By Len

If you are using your mouse with only the default settings, you may be missing some useful options.

Adjust the Buttons

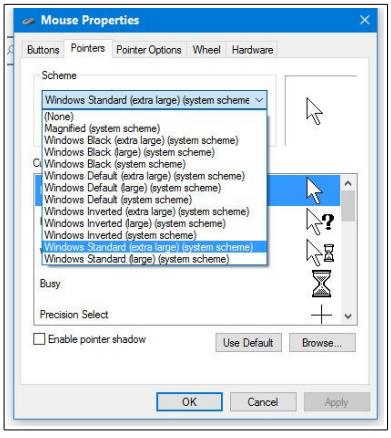


It is possible to switch the function of the left and right mouse buttons. The default setting is to have the left button used for select and the right button to open context menus. Left-handers might want to switch these buttons.

Go to the ***Control Panel*** and open the **Mouse Properties** window. Select the **Buttons** tab. Use the check box to switch between primary and secondary buttons.

The Buttons tab also allows you to adjust the double-click speed and to toggle click-lock on and off.

Choose the Pointer

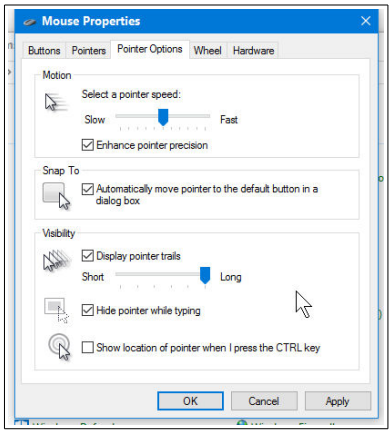


In the **Mouse Properties** window, select the **Pointers** tab and then select the small arrow on the right side of the ***Scheme*** box.

Check the different mouse pointer options. To test an option, select the **Apply** button. The ***Invert*** options change the color of the pointer as it is

moved over different colored areas of the display. I am in the habit of using the ***Windows Standard (extra large) (System scheme)***, but you should experiment and determine your own preferred option.

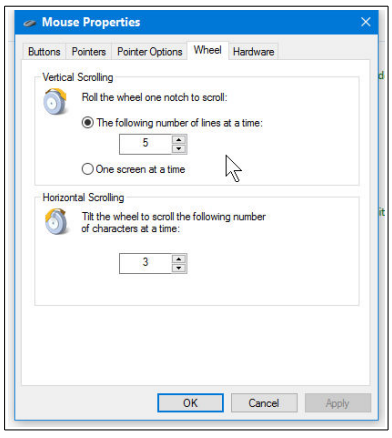
Choose Pointer Options



The Mouse Properties dialog box **Pointer Options** tab provides a number of things to adjust. I prefer to have the pointer ***Automatically move pointer to the default button in a dialog box***. This means that I do not have to push the mouse around to the OK button in many dialog boxes.

If you toggle the ***Display pointer trails option ON***, the pointer will be easier to spot when you are moving it.

Choose Wheel options



The **Wheel** tab in the Mouse Properties Dialog box allows you to adjust how the wheel scrolls lines or, in some cases, horizontal scrolling.

Text Selection

If you ever tried to select text by clicking and dragging the mouse, you might have accidentally dragged text to a new position. Here are some text selection tricks to prevent this from happening.

Place the mouse text cursor at the beginning of the text you want to select. Hold the **Shift** key down and the ***left click*** on the location for the end of your selection.

To select a **single word**, ***double-click*** with the text cursor somewhere on the word.

To select a **sentence**, ***triple-click*** with the text cursor somewhere in the sentence.

To select a **paragraph**, ***quadruple-click*** with the text cursor somewhere in the paragraph.

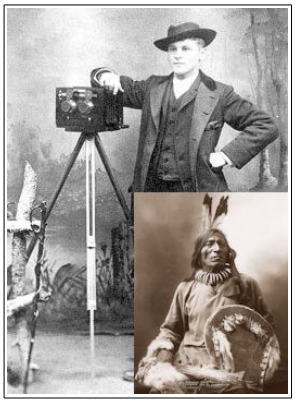
360 Video Cameras

By Len

Ever since the early days of photography designers have been working on ways to show the world in three dimensions. At one point many households owned a stereoscope that simulated 3D scenes.

The trick used with the stereoscope was to take two pictures at the same time with two camera lenses that were spaced about the same distance apart as the average human eyes. Then, if you looked at each picture with a different eye, your brain would merge the images into a kind of three dimensional view.

> BTW, did you know that if you only have one eye, you do not have depth perception? Want to test the concept? Point your two index fingers at each other and, holding them at arm's length and with one eye closed, make the fingers touch.



Photographers roamed the world taking stereoscope pictures to sell. The pictures gave people a chance to see sights beyond their limited locale.

Here is a picture of my third cousin John Anderson with his stereoscope camera. He had a trading post near the Rosebud Sioux reservation and took many classic pictures of Native Americans. You might re-

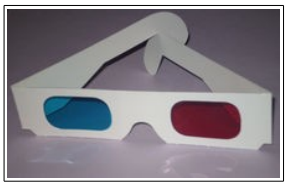
member someone in your family who, back in the old days, had a collection of the stereoscope pictures.

The same two-picture 3D technique was used by the ViewMaster. Pairs of pictures were mounted on a circular holder, and as you clicked a lever the next pair of pictures were rotated into place. The ViewMaster made it easy to focus each eye on a different picture, thus providing the 3D effect.

The stereoscope and the ViewMaster required special cameras to create the pictures, and it was not very common for the average person to make their own 3-D picture pairs.

Three D still photography has been around for a long time. Inventors were making stereoscope devices in the mid 1800's. Creating 3D movies, was another story. Inventors struggled with using the two eye trick in movies.

One frequently used technique was to have the viewer wear glasses with two different colored lenses. Pictures were made with two different colored filters… red and blue.



When you looked at the pictures without special glasses, you would see fuzzy red and blue versions of the image. But, through the colored lenses, your brain could merge the images and make them appear to have depth. If you look at the tiger picture with red-blue glasses, the tiger appears to be jumping out of the page. (I have a pair of red-blue glasses in the computer room in case you want to verify this trick. The effect is amazing.)

A similar trick was to replace the red and blue images with polarized light. The special glasses would have the lenses alternate the polarization to again fool your brain into seeing 3D.

There have been many attempts to market 3D movies and 3D television sets. Although there have been a few hits, popularity has declined. One problem is that forcing your brain to merge two different images from your eyes is a bother. Some folks soon get headaches, and the effect can be lost when a persons pupil to pupil distance does not match the separation distance of the two cameras.

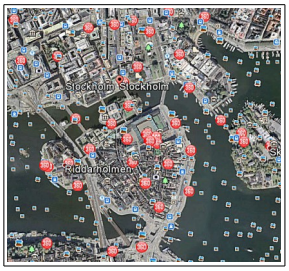
360 Photos

The processing power of computer chips together with very sophisticated image display software has

created a whole new approach to creating 360 degree views of the world. If you have used Google Street views and panned around and up and down on a view, you are familiar with 360 still photos.

Pictures are taken using a camera with a fish eye lens. The picture will, of course, look distorted when viewed normally. However, through some magic mathematical image processing, a normal appearing image can be viewed, and the direction point of the image can be manipulated buy the user.

New cameras have gone beyond a single fish eye lens. The cameras used to take Google Street Views have 9 different lenses. The images are stitched together with some very sophisticated software.



Google Earth Pro allows people to upload 360 photos and pin them to Google Earth locations. For example, a Google Earth Pro view of Stockholm shows markers for both regular and 360 view images. The red markers in the Google Earth Pro view of Stockholm are links to pictures taken with 360 cameras.

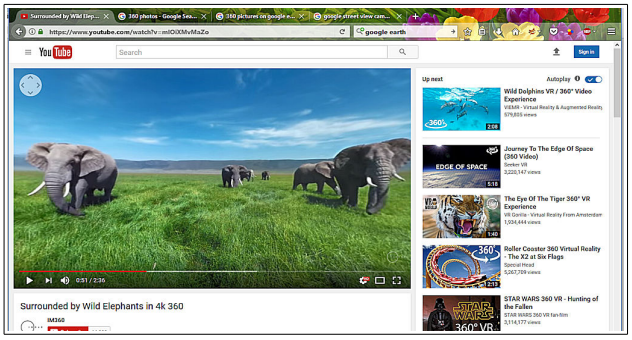
Here is a 360 view of the historic ship Vasa found in Stockholm. When you are viewing this in Google Earth you can use you mouse to change your viewing direction.

Download the free Google Earth Pro software.
https://www.google.com/earth/download/gep/agree.html

360 Videos

The next step in 360 visualization technology is to apply the principles to full motion video. YouTube has a whole section devoted to 360 videos.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzuqhhs6NWbgTzMuM09WKDQ



360 Cameras

The early 360 cameras were either experimental or expensive professional devices, like the Google cameras. Now, however, the technology has followed the familiar path of better quality and lower prices.

360 cameras

You can find 360 cameras with various resolutions and features for prices from under $200 to many thousands of dollars. There are versions for underwater, versions that look like cell phones, versions for mounting on vehicles, versions designed for security systems, and very portable versions that you can wear on your hat.

For viewing, there are virtual reality glasses available so that you can view your 360 pictures anywhere.

The quest for capturing images of the world that appear to be three dimensional have come a long way since the stereoscope of the 1800's.

Do You Need a Car Dash Camera?

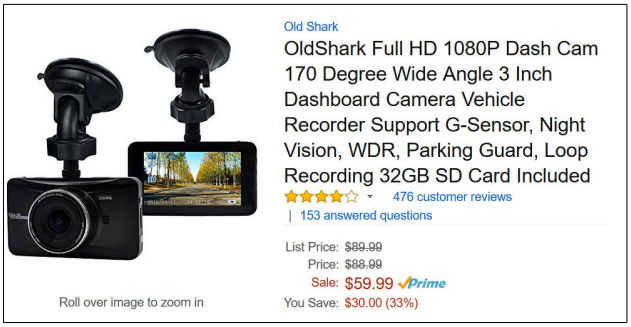
By Len

The TV news occasionally shows videos taken from car dash cams. Many car owners have added dash cams to record their travels. These dash cams can sometimes provide helpful evidence when accidents happen. (They will also make embarrassing records of stupid things you might do.) If you do a lot of driving, you might be interested in learning about dash cameras.

Like most technologies, dash cameras keep changing and the prices get lower. Here is one reviewers analysis of current dash cameras.

http://www.popularmechanics.com/cars/how-to/g9/5-dash-cams-tested/

At the time of this writing, Amazon was pushing the 'OldShark' for $59.99.

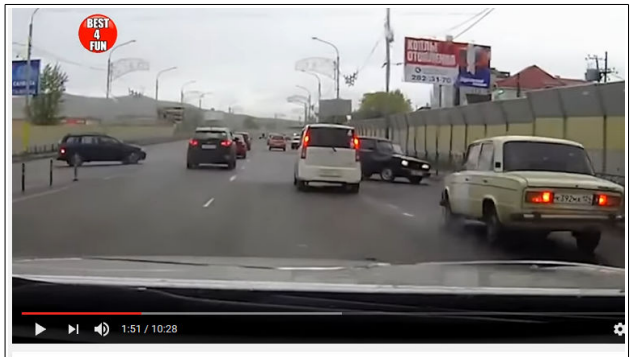


If you enjoy watching videos of motorist mayhem, you probably have seen YouTube videos of silly and disastrous views from dash mounted cameras.

Don't watch the one on this link if you do not want to see bad drivers and nasty crashes.

Dash Cam Accidents Compilation

It appears that folks in Russia use a lot of dash cameras, and watching some of the YouTube crash compilations showing crazy drivers, it is clear why they are needed.



Ultimate Bad Drivers Retarded Driving Skills DashCam. 2017 Extreme Car Fails & crash sounds

Crash Videos

An estimated one million Russian motorists have installed dash cams in their cars. Though some of them capture things like the 10-ton meteor that exploded in the atmosphere last year, the cameras are popular for just one reason: ensuring justice when it comes to proving accidents on the roads.

In 2012, Al Jazeera spoke with motorists who never drive without their cameras. One driver said others believe that police officers are only on the roads to take bribes, bending traffic laws —or ignoring them completely—to benefit themselves. A camera will save you from false accusations.

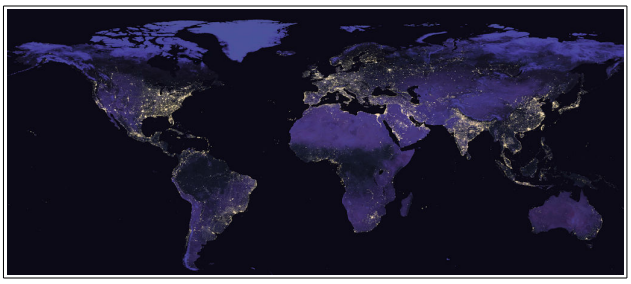
"In Russia, everyone should have a camera on their dashboard. It's better than keeping a lead pipe under your seat for protection," writes Marina Galperina, a New York-based blogger who hails from Russia.

According to Galperina, hit and runs are "very common," and insurance companies have begun to crack down on claims, often denying any claim with little evidence. Witnesses aren't much help, either; Russian courts have turned into a he-said-she-said mess when it comes to traffic accidents. "Dash-cam footage is the only real way to substantiate your claims in the court of law," Galperina writes.

I think if I was back to a previous lifetime, where my job required thousands of miles of driving, I would have one of these dash cameras installed.

Earth Lights

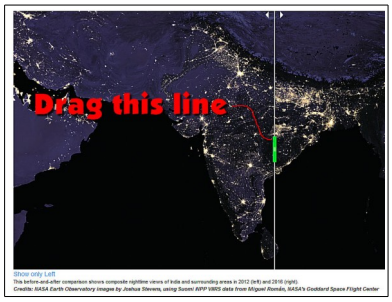
By Len



NASA scientists are releasing new global maps of Earth at night, providing the clearest yet composite view of the patterns of human settlement across our planet. https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2017/new-night-lights-maps-open-up-possible-real-time-applications

The lights in Europe

When you visit the NASA page, be sure to scroll down to see examples of changes between 2012 and 2016. There are images that include a drag line that allows you to dynamically see the differences between the years.

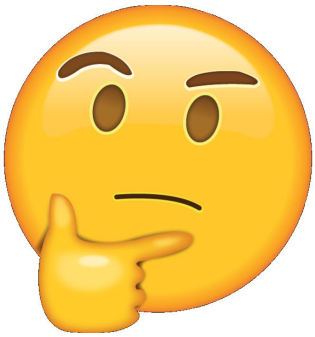


In addition to observing weather patterns, the NASA operated satellite has many useful applications. The satellite viewing system detected power outages in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, a major storm that struck the northeastern Caribbean and the southeastern United States in late September 2016.

Next Year?

This is the last BVCC Newsletter until September. If you have any articles to submit, or if you have any suggestions for articles, please send them to:

webmaster@bvres.org



Trivia: This is the 91st issue of the BVCC Newsletter edited by Len since March of 2007.