The Bristol Village Computer Club Newsletter

May, 2025
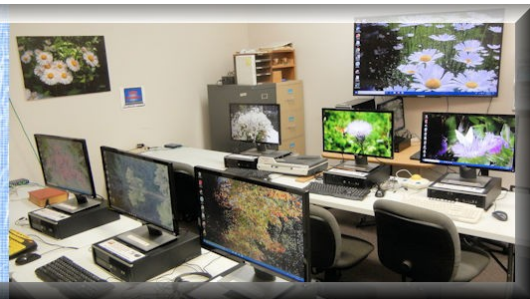
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October Windows 10 deadline

Remember Windows 10 decision time in October is drawing near. See the February bvcc Newsletter for a review of your options.
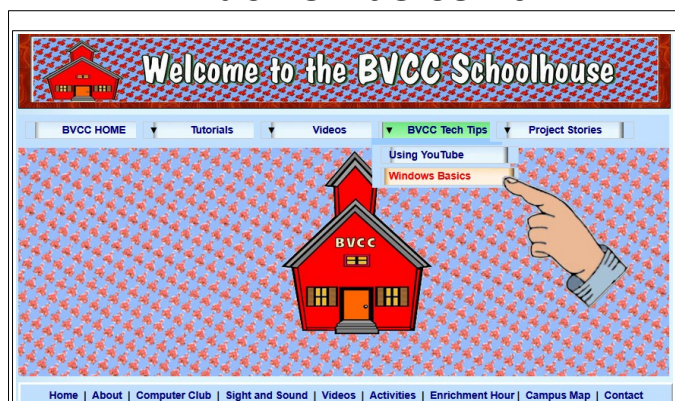
Windows Basics 101

Figure 1: Downloading the Windows Basics 101 PDF file.

Bristol Village residents frequently ask if bvcc has any classes for beginners. The answer is yes, but the classes are online. In this case both as a written tutorial and as a tutorial video that closely follows the written version.

To download a PDF file for Windows Basics 101 go to the Computer Club Schoolhouse select BVCC Tech Tips, and select Windows Basics.

Here is a link to the Windows Basics 101 YouTube video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1J_hiSwtvUc

The biggest challenge when trying to learn how to use a computer is **vocabulary**. The Windows Basics tutorial introduces the words you need to know to become friends with your computer.

Unless you have a photographic memory, you will need to go through the tutorial several times until the computer terminology no longer sounds like a foreign language.

My favorite analogy is that learning how to use a computer is like learning to play the piano. If you wanted to lean how to play the piano you would take lessons and practice the same piece several times. So, take the time to review the Windows Basics tutorial several times and soon you will become a serious computer user.

Multiple Desktops?

If you are like most Windows users, you probably are familiar with having more than one App *Window* open at a time. You might even have experimented with opening 2 *Windows* open at the same time with

Figure 2: Three Desktops.

the screen split with one window on each half of the display. However, you might not have explored using multiple *Desktops*.

You should find the *Desktop* tool on the taskbar. If it is not there, *right click* on the **Desktop**, select *Personalize, Taskbar*. Make sure that the **Task view** is turned **ON**. (see Figure 3)
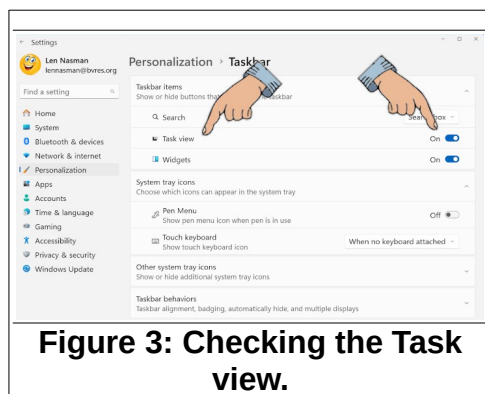

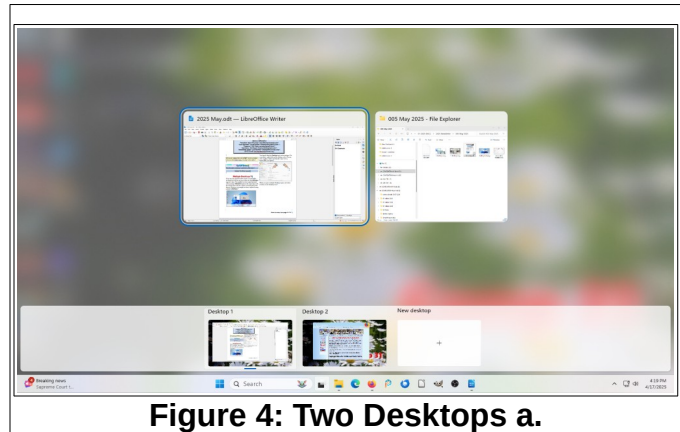**Figure 3: Checking the Task view.**

Figure 4: Two Desktops a.

When you have multiple Desktops open, and when you hover on he Desktop tool, A pop up will show the open Desktops. Figure 4 shows a situation where **Windows Key + Tab Key** was pressed. The figure shows that 2 *Desktops* are open and the current Desktop has 2 *Windows* open.

Figure 5: Two Desktops b.

In Figure 4, LibreOffice and File Explorer are open in Desktop 1. Hovering on Desktop 2 shows that Desktop 2 has PaintShopPro and Firefox open.

This will make more sense if you try it.

- ✔ Open 2 or more *Windows* in your Desktop.
- ✔ Select the **Desktop** tool and add a new **Desktop**.
- ✔ In *Desktop* 2 open one or more application **Windows**.
- ✔ Press **Windows Key + Tab Key** Then hover the mouse on each open Window.

So, what's the big deal? If you never work with multiple Windows open, not much. However, if you work between multiple Windows, using multiple Desktops can minimize Desktop clutter and make your life a bit easier. For example, you might dedicated one Desktop to word processing, a second Desktop to photo editing, and a third Desktop to video editing. Of course if you open two many apps at the same time, your computer might not have enough guts to handle everything open st once.

Gimp tutorials now available

GIMP is a *free* and open-source image manipulation program, similar to Adobe Photoshop. It's used for tasks like photo retouching, image composition, and image authoring. GIMP can be used for various purposes, including simple painting, advanced photo editing, batch processing, and image format conversion.
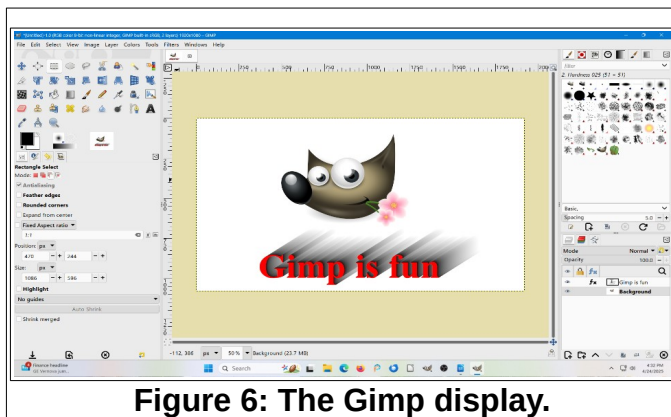

Figure 6: The Gimp display.

Len has created a book, *__Gimp 3 Fundamentals__* along with a correlated set of instructional videos. The book is available from Amazon (search for Len Nasman). The videos are on YouTube. For links to the videos and the related free sample image book go to:

https://www.lenshamn.com/learnatlenshamn.html

The tutorials use the proven step-by-step learn by doing approach that has been popular with Len's tutorials for LibreOffice Writer, PaintShop Pro, Microsoft Paint 3D, and other applications.

If you want a *free* alternative to Adobe Photoshop, give Gimp a try. BTW there is a review copy of Gimp 3 Fundamentals on the desk in he Computer Room.

BV Squirrels
By Len

It's spring and the BV squirrels are busy. Someone in the village has been providing squirrels with pea nuts, and the squirrels love to bury them in the flower pots around my house. This is very annoying when they come back and dig up newly planted flowers.

The whole squirrel thing reminded me of Mark Rober's squirrel Maze 3.0.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lg5wznn3IBE

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