



Carindale Writers Group newsletter

2 June 2011

Present: Len, Nick, Maria S., Judy, Peter, Dorothy, Wendy, Hilary, Rolando, Maria G., Brian, Chip, Jeff P., Annette, Leslee-Anne, Dawn, Jane, Jeff M., Gary and Beverley. Jane's friend, Sam, was also present.

Discussion today.

Thanks very much to Nick who offered to make a lectern for the group. We will be delighted to stand proudly at it to read out our work.

Publishing advice. It's important to writers to be aware of the differences in types of publishing.

1. Vanity publishing or self-publishing gives the writer no distribution and is very expensive.
2. Royalty publishing means distribution by your publisher. The publisher pays you rather than you paying them.
3. Partnership publishing – you share costs with the publisher. And beware – there can be a few snags with partnership deals.

Nick and Dawn suggest the following sound advice.

Get a solicitor who specializes in publishing contracts.

Make sure your copyright is not being signed away completely.

Check copyright rules when entering competitions. Publishers will not consider work that has been entered into a competition.

Please refer to the article about publishing on page 5 of June's edition of WQ Magazine. To access it via the internet see <http://www.qwc.asn.au/MyQWC.aspx>

Annual Dues reminder. These can be made by electronic transfer if you wish. Contact our treasurer Jeff Matheson for further details - macmathanjj@bigpond.com

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Today's featured reader was Jane Furey.

Jane read for us "The Gates of Goonagullah." She particularly asked the group to look out for correct use of tense in her story and if we could visualize the setting.

Jane writes about the importance of family values and how members of several generations of the family in her story exhibit those values. With the passing of each person from life into death, a gate on the farming property is named for them. Their characteristics and traits will always be remembered.

Providing encouragement through sharing and discussion

Feedback for Jane included the observations that her use of gates to exemplify a particular trait was an unusual one. Perhaps more explanation is needed though, about Olivia's own gate, 'LivviePa's gate'.

Jane's excellent descriptions were commented upon and many of our members found they could relate to 'hearing silence.'

More movement, it was felt, was needed in the story. Dialogue might help. To introduce dialogue, the use of flashbacks as a ploy was suggested. It might be useful to expand the piece, giving each family member an entire chapter so the reader gets a really strong insight into the whole of the character. The story would benefit from a stronger storyline earlier in the piece, perhaps even by starting with the scene where Olivia is swinging on the gate. Greater use of the active voice is recommended; passive voice slows the pace.

Care must be exercised to make the point of view consistent and noticeably different between the character Olivia's and the narrator's perspective.

'Place' was clearly very important in Jane's story. A lively discussion regarding the importance of character over place versus place over character followed Jane's reading. It was agreed that in this piece character and place were in concert.

It's always good to have a healthy exchange of ideas which go to encourage and support a writer's work, and seeing how we all learn from each other. Well done, Jane, and thank you!

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Our next meeting at the Holland Park Library is 16 June at 10am prompt. Our featured reader for that meeting will be Dawn Johnson.

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Suggested exercise for today was **Tooth and Claw**.

Len wrote 'Oh, I'm so vain'. A chap attended the dentist where he went through unnecessary pain to have teeth removed, all for vanity. Why? Because he was an actor.

Nick offered a very funny dentist scene with the client as a circus performer.

Maria S. gave us Tooth and Claw which was set in a dream world; a clever and funny piece.

Judith wrote a dentist scene about a violent client to be struck off the reminder list. The dentist himself needed first aid after the patient's visit.

Dawn wrote a true story called Teeth Collection. A young nurse mistakenly collected all the patients' dentures at the same time to clean them, without identifying which set belonged to whom. Each patient ended up trying all the dentures till they found the ones that fit them best.

Brian, in his usual inimitable fashion, turned the exercise into Dent & Talon.

Maria Gunn presented Nature, Tooth & Claw & More.

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Gary wrote a cohesive piece called Tooth and Claw, the only vampire story to be offered. An old sailor, just back in port and drinking away his pay gets carried away, literally, by what he thinks are two good-looking sheilas, only to find fatally that it's not his rum they're after but his blood.

Other Short Pieces read out today.

Jeff presented a dialogue from his novel between two battle-weary soldiers, longing for peace but finding solace in the company of their brothers-in-arms.

Lesley Anne read out a child's story about owls, a dog, kangaroos and other animals interacting to protect each other. It was very well read because of its interesting sound effects.

Hilary wrote Show and Tell, about the little things school children find both fascinating and disgusting. Recently, Hilary wrote another piece called The Art of Conversation in which a neighbour talks so much she doesn't let anyone else get a word in edgeways.

Peter presented lyrics from his musical in a song called Why Does The World Hate America? The lyrics suggest that justice is not even-handed, which might be one of the reasons.

Rolando wrote about emotional blackmail in a short piece called Slice of Life. Not alone can your adult children manipulate you for their own ends but even your spouse can do it well too.

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Suggested exercise for next time is **Riding Home**.

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Writers Websites.

Jane suggests we take a look at this one.

<http://www.copyblogger.com/ernest-hemingway-top-5-tips-for-writing-well/>

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Chip's Computer Tips

By FN KARMAZ

CWG members who have a favourite website or blog are invited to send it to me and tell me why it is your favourite. I will run these in a forthcoming column.

BLOCKED FILES — WINDOWS SECURITY EXCESS

It's one of those "What the heck!" moments: an alert pops up, stating, "Windows has blocked access to this file."

This little annoyance started in XP, became common in Vista, and is still hanging around in Windows 7; but a fix is easy and the same for all three Oses (Operating Systems).

Windows' good-security intentions go awry

If your office is anything like mine, sharing files is an essential part of the operation. When something interrupts the smooth exchange of files, it's bad news; when the files in question concern financial matters, it's infuriating.

That's what happened to a CWG member. He received an essential file by e-mail but couldn't open it. (He mentions Quicken, but that app was not the source of the problem.)

“I have been going around and around with Intuit tech support for a couple of months, trying to correct a deficient or corrupt Quicken file. I think the solution is within reach, but Windows has thrown up a roadblock.”

“Intuit sent me a zipped file to replace one of the software components. But when I try to copy the file to my Quicken folder, I get the following message: 'Windows found that this file is potentially harmful. To help protect your computer, Windows has blocked access to this file.’”

Most likely, you encountered the unsubtle hand of Windows' **Attachment Execution Service (AES)**. It mostly affects e-mail attachments but can sometimes be triggered by other activity.

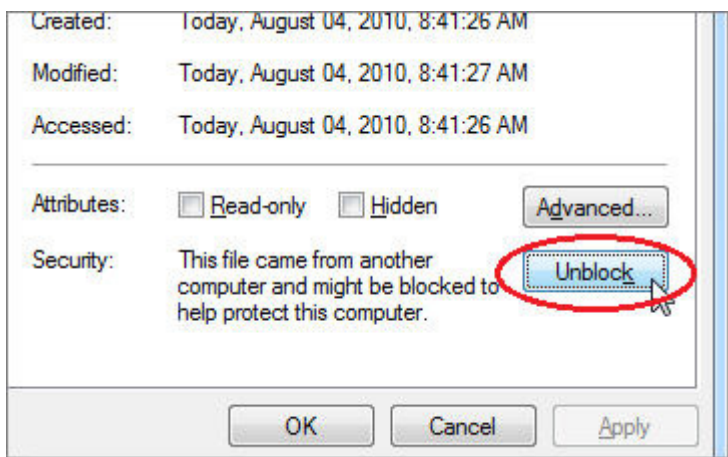
Windows keeps track of the security *zones* where files originate, and it will sometimes automatically block access to certain *suspect* files. This automatic file-blocking behaviour was added to Windows in XP SP2, and it was a notorious annoyance in early Vista. Windows 7 seems to handle it with fewer false positives. I don't think I've seen even one AES dialog box in the year and more I've been running Win7.

In any case, these file blocks are only temporary and are meant to be easily removed once you've determined that a blocked file is actually OK. Here's how:

- Save the file locally (i.e., right-click the file and select Save As) to any location you wish on your PC.
- When the download's done, right-click on the file's name or icon and select Properties.
- Click the **Unblock** button near the bottom of the dialog box, as shown in Figure 1.

That's all it takes!

Figure 1.



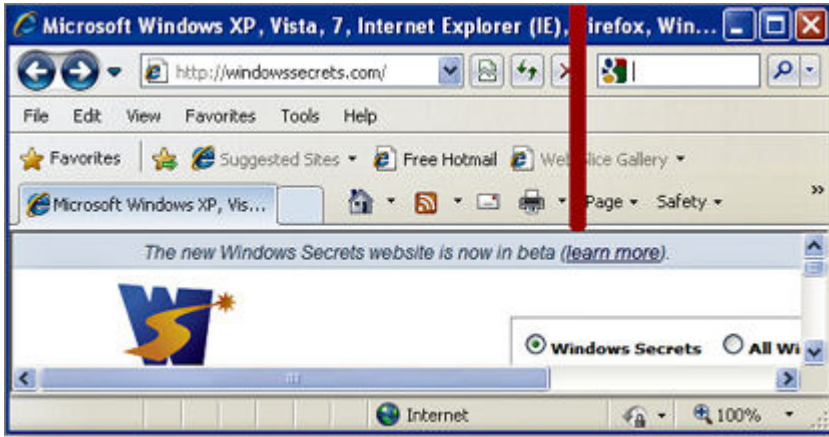
Blocked files should offer an "Unblock" option in the file's right-click Properties dialog box.

For more unblocking help, see this Microsoft Answers [discussion](#), which covers a case very much like this where a user couldn't access a downloaded payroll file.

A different Microsoft Answers [post](#), "Unblocking files downloaded from the Internet," has some additional, general information.

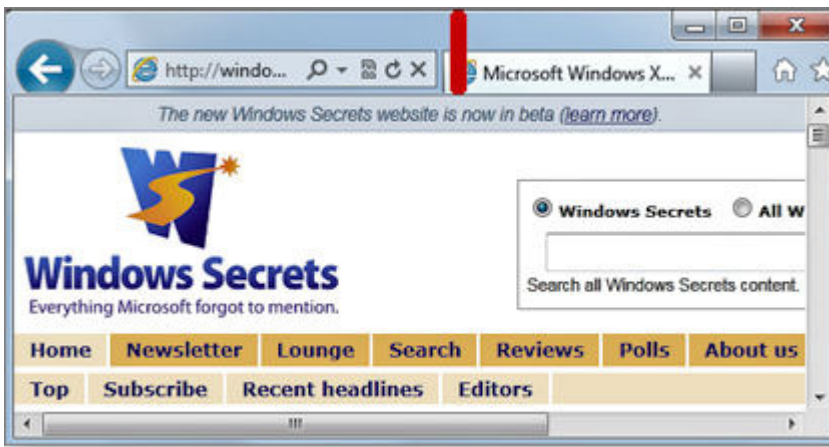
For more technical information, see the MS TechNet [article](#), "Mitigating application compatibility," and scroll down to the section labelled "Attachment Execution Service."

The real answer to limited screen space may lie in some of the newer software.



For example, Figure 2 shows the top of Internet Explorer 8's classic tabbed interface. In a typical configuration, it can consume an excessive amount of the browser's total window space.

Figure 2. IE 8's standard setup of menus takes up about 150 pixels of vertical space (shown with the red bar).



In contrast, Internet Explorer 9 has the most compact interface of the current *big-three* browsers, as shown in Figure 3. Firefox 4 falls in between (See Figure 4).

Figure 3. IE 9's compressed menu system measures just 53 pixels high (red bar).

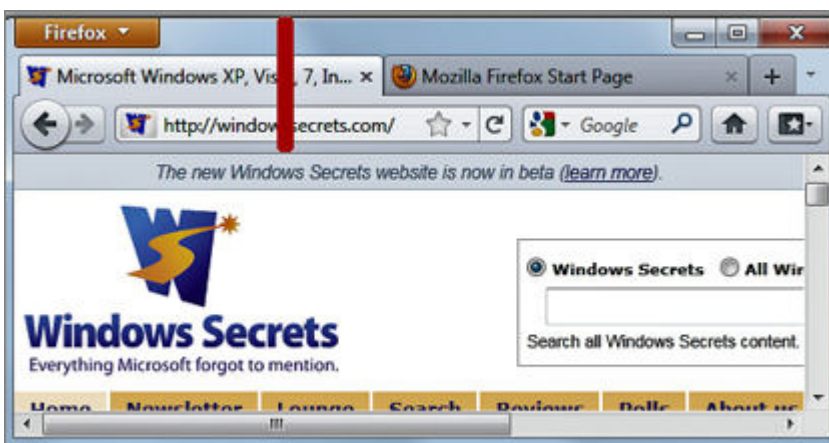


Figure 4. Firefox 4's tabs/menus design isn't quite as space-efficient as IE9, measuring 84 pixels high (red bar) in its default setup.

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At about 110 pixels high, the current Chrome (10.0.6x) interface isn't notably compact. But I expect Chrome to evolve in the direction of smaller toolbars in future releases. It's a welcome trend in software.

You can see it in Office tools, too. For example, Microsoft Office 2010 ships with a huge default set of 132-pixel-high tabs. But you can shrink the interface by two-thirds — to just 48 pixels! — via the technique described in my February 10 [Top Story](#), "Unlock the power of the Quick Access Toolbar." If you find yourself wishing for extra screen space — and especially if you find giant tabs and toolbars in your way! — check out the newer software releases or look for application options that let you expand or contract menus.

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Meeting other writers.

Qld Writers Centre offer Free Drop-in Sessions at the State Library. 'To spread the writing love and help you fit some dedicated writing time into your calendar, QWC is running free drop-in sessions for members on Mondays 4 July, 1 August, 5 September, 3 October, and 7 November.

What's the Story, Morning Glory? 7.45am—8.30am. Join us for a monthly drop-in class on Monday mornings in the Library Cafe at SLQ (State Library of Queensland). Bring your laptop or notebook, grab a cup of coffee and get those writing thoughts down out of your head or just spend some time brainstorming with other writers before heading off to start your day.

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AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM BEVERLEY

Dear Members,

This is a reminder that, in accordance with Carindale Writers' Group Charter, on the 16th June we will hold annual elections for the positions of facilitator, treasurer, newsletter writer, and library custodian.

In previous years, we have (mostly) seen the status quo unchanged. However, this year I will not be standing for re-election for the position of facilitator/chairperson. I know this might be unexpected news to many of you and I apologise if it comes as a shock

Having had the unique distinction and great pleasure of serving as your facilitator for over 11 years, I shall certainly miss having my finger on the pulse of CWG. Some amazing people have worked alongside me during this time and I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to the following people. Jeff has been looking after the money side of things for over eight years. Desley works behind the scenes looking after our website and was responsible for the set up. Her generosity to CWG is legendary. Leslee-Anne has been in charge of the library for a number of years, having taken over from Dorothy, who also looked after it for many preceding years. Chip has volunteered computer advice and behind the scenes support in so many ways since he joined us around nine years ago and Debby is our current newsletter writer, having taken over from Naomi, who took over from me last year.

These members have proven invaluable in terms of their professional abilities, long-term dedication to our group and cheerful good humour in all situations. We would be a less significant group were it not for people like these and all the others, too numerous to mention, who regularly put up their hands to help wherever and whenever necessary. Our sense of camaraderie is, most definitely, what sets us apart from other writing groups.

Having made this decision to stand aside, I will always feel proud that I acted on my convictions when, in June 2000, after being a founding member of our first incarnation in 1999, I took what I

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thought was a restrictive Carindale Novel Writers' Group and veered it towards the vibrant, diverse Carindale Writers' Group it is in 2011. Financially, we are well able to continue to fund our commitments going forward to 2012, and with so many talented writers as members, and more looking to join us, the future looks rosy.

I feel excited about our group having a fresh perspective applied with renewed vigour. I hope no-one feels in any way daunted by the challenge. To my mind, the only qualifications needed for the role of facilitator are a professional attitude, time and energy, and a deep commitment to the ethos of Carindale Writers' Group *to provide encouragement through discussion and sharing.*

Please email me with any queries you might have regarding your nomination.

Kind regards,

Beverley Asmus (June 2011)

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Newsletter composed by Debby Raymond – 2debby@iinet.net.au