

McHENRY COUNTY COMPUTER CLUB

USERS GROUP FOR PC-COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS



APRIL 2010
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The April 2010 meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is [April 10](#), at the Salvation Army Building, 290 W. Crystal Lake Ave., in Crystal Lake. Enter the building at the parking level double door under the awning. The treasurer will be there by 8:30 AM for Club financial transactions.

Membership

Our membership is \$26.00 a year. NOTE: This fee offsets the running of the club; membership benefits include help with computer problems. Please pay Lyle Giese, our treasurer, or the designated Board Member in his absence.

Meetings : 2nd Saturday of the month.

Meeting Agenda

- Introductions & Reports
- Demo - Office 2007 - Jack Luff
- Extended Q&A
- Spring Party

Bring your questions; if you can't attend a meeting, submit questions to our website address.

The Newsletter is published monthly by McHenry County Computer Club, online.

Editor-in-Chief: Lucë York ; Webmaster: Cindi Carrigan

Direct inquiries, comments, articles to the Editor to Lucë at info@Mc3ComputerClub.org

Please indicate that your email is for the editor.

Direct technical questions to MC3 at: info@Mc3ComputerClub.org

MC3 website: <http://www.mc3computerclub.org/>

UPCOMING DEMOS

- *April* Office 2007 - Jack Luff
- *May* Clonezilla - Lyle Giese
- *June* Flying 'Copter - John Katkus ; possible laser printer demo by Dick Hoppe

MC³ OFFICIALS

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Webmaster: Cindi Carrigan
Board Members : Jack Luff ; Dave Lutes ; Jim Bierle ; Bruce Eckersberg

Questions & Answers

Q: When I open Firefox since upgrading to 3.6, I get the following message: Server not found. But if I click on the refresh, I get the website.

A: This user is on Dialup. The new version of Firefox is loading and looking for the website before the Internet connection is ready and times out. Connect to the Internet first, then loading Firefox; or, just know that this is normal, and the first time you need to hit refresh.

Q: Comcast is changing from McAfee to Norton for its free AV product.

A: The install SHOULD remove McAfee, but it is important to make sure that it does. It will slow down the computer if parts of both products are left in place. McAfee and Norton have available for download to fully remove their products.

Q: My computer displays an error message upon start up: "Interactive logon process initialization has failed. Please consult the event log for more details."

A: Go to Control Panel, Computer Management, and click on Event viewer. These error messages will be in the System log. Look at those entries with yellow or red flags. Note the exact time you turned on your computer, as these messages are time-stamped. Read and try to understand the error messages. Some yellow or red events can be normal! For instance, no link on your ethernet card when you do not have a network cable plugged in is normal.

Q: What is the functional difference between sleep, hibernate, or using the on/off button?

A: Sleep and hibernate are not recommended in my opinion. They do not always work correctly, especially when using a network or the Internet. It will take you longer to get the machine properly shutdown and restarted to get everything working. In my experience, it's just not worth it. Using the turn-off-the-monitor or turn-off-the-hard-drives is ok, however.

Q: How do I turn off/on that language bar that takes up room on the taskbar next to the systray (portion of bottom that contains the time)?

A: I always have the Control panel in Classic view (or in Win7, it's called icon view). Select Regional and Language Options. Then select the Language tab and then click on Details, then the Advanced tab. To turn off the language bar, de-select Turn off advanced language services to turn off the language bar on the taskbar.

Freeware

by Al Schrader

I was recently asked to repair a laptop that refused to log on to the Internet. The first thing I did is to make sure it has an anti-virus program running and is up to date, which it did. I did a scan and it came up with one or two viruses, which I then cleaned. The machine still refused to get on the Internet, so I decided to install a spyware scanner from a CD, which refused to install. Then I tried another, which also refused to install. At that point it should not allow me to install any program. I did scan in safe mode with the installed anti-virus, which also came up clean.

I found a spyware scanner named Superantispyware scanner portable (it can be found at <http://www.superantispyware.com/portablescanner.html>); it is always up to date with the latest definitions and does not have to be installed and is portable. Every time you download this software it changes its name so any spyware or viruses that are on a computer cannot tell it is a spyware scanner so it does not exclude it. By the time it does know, it is too late for the virus or spyware to adjust.

I copied it to a CD, which I then put into the laptop and let it run; it then came up with 280 pieces of spyware and 3 root kits and cleared off everything. Then I rebooted the laptop, which then connected to the Internet and updated the installed anti-virus (which originally said was up to date). Afterwards, I did a scan and it came up clean. I have instructed the owner that he needs to backup what he needs and find the restore CD's but for now everything appears to be working. I am giving a thumbs-up for Superantispyware portable. ↑



A Recent Experience

by Jocko Lorenz

All my former Internet Providers used to carry the News Groups in Outlook Express. I used to subscribe (they were free) to some of the Groups, which dealt with PC or game problems. You would send a message with your problems and somebody else would answer with a solution. Or you would check to see whether somebody had the same problem before and got answers for it. I use ATT DSL service now, and they stopped the News Groups a few months back. Now it is harder to find answers to problems.

In one homebuilt computer, I use a gaming motherboard - A8N32-SLI Deluxe (made by Asus) with Windows XP Professional. Last week, the monitor would stay blank when started, but I could hear the OS starting. It also made beep sounds - 1 long and 3 short beeps. Finally, I found a forum for Asus customers, where people had the same problem. These beeps indicate a video problem. I figured that I had a bad graphics card and installed an older PCIe graphics card. But there was no change; it would not work.

In the Forum, somebody also suggested a different solution. My motherboard has 2 PCIe slots for 2 graphics cards (SLI). If there is only one used, the upper slot has to be used. When I used the second slot for the original video card, it solved the problem and the monitor came to life again.

Editor's note: This is exactly the kind of experience I would like others in the club to write about. Thanks very much, Jocko!

My Computer Usage Journey: Part 2

by Lucë York

During the 2 years I spent in Boulder, Colorado, working toward a Master's in Russian Literature, I managed to get all of my papers done with my trusty Olympia manual typewriter. No word of what was happening in the computer field entered my world. After all, we were in the Slavic Languages Department - part of the Ivory Tower of the Liberal Arts. What did we care about computers? Well, I cared, but my mind was away from my past experience at the U of I. I had a degree to work for and further aspirations toward a doctorate in comparative literature.

My studies at Colorado did not produce the euphoria that I had experienced in the High Energy Physics Lab. Furthermore, I found more academic games and jealousy at Colorado, as was evident at the UI in the language department, only the stakes were greater. After finishing my master's work, I decided it was time for a break. I decided to spend the summer of 1970 with my parents back in Ohio. I enjoyed the break - I worked as an evening hostess at our local Perkins Pancake House. I had a wonderful social life, but very little intellectual life. So I decided it was time to move on. I moved back* to Chicago and got a job with Encyclopædia Britannica.

Hired as a proofreader in what was supposed to be the Computer Editorial Department, I was very excited. With my background in languages and knowledge of grammar and spelling, I thought that I would be going on to another stage dealing with computers. Unfortunately, there were a number of people in key positions who did not like the idea of computers; in other words, they were afraid of them. They managed to sabotage getting the computers set up. After a few months, the top brass decided to scrap the idea of using computers and fell back on the old tried and true method of putting an encyclopedia together: We would use typed manuscripts to start the work, and R.R. Donnelly were our typesetters who would turn the corrected manuscripts into proofs and finally into the books themselves. At least, we had electric typewriters by then, which certainly made that part of our jobs easier.

Just to give you an idea of why it took so long to produce a book, I'll tell you about the process that each manuscript went through before it was printed for the final book version.

First, of course, the authors for the manuscripts had to be solicited. He/she would get the manuscript typed up and sent to us - by post, of course. The manuscript was then routed to the head editor of that particular subject area, and that editor would give it to the editor who had the expertise for it. After he was done with it, if the manuscript was particularly messy, it was retyped then sent to the Style Department, where stylists changed the spelling and grammar to come into line with that recommended by the Chicago Manual of Style. After that, the manuscript went to the proofreading department; then followed the production readers department, where we checked to make sure that the changes made did not turn the original into nonsense. There could still be spelling, grammar, and sense errors that needed to be corrected. To make a longer story short, there were many other editors who needed or wanted to see manuscripts, and the number of times one manuscript made it around the blocks was maybe 5 times, 10, ... Who knows? Who counted? Then we sent the manuscripts to the typesetters, got back proofs, which then had to be proofread again and copy read again. How much easier this all would have been had we had computers to correct things and send the corrections back and forth!

Britannica learned a lesson, and at least had the intelligence to set their Micropaedia up on a computer. That is the part of the encyclopedia that would be updated yearly.

I left Britannica in December of 1973, because the project was over and they were laying people off in droves. They were nice enough to give me my pink slip on my birthday. Oh, I do remember them dearly. ... *NOT!*

My next venture took me to the American Medical Association, to work on one of the magazines, which was geared more to the less medical aspect for doctors. It was called Prism. Though I thoroughly enjoyed my stay at the AMA, it did not involve computer use, so I won't mention any details. I'm just keeping any gaps from showing up too obviously.

My next venture, in 1975, involved getting married, getting pregnant, and going to the American Floral Art School in Chicago so that I could become the floral designer for the flower/plant shop that my husband and his brother were going to open in Richmond in September. After we opened the shop, my husband and his brother & his wife took time to go off to take some related classes at MCC. My brother-in-law kept the books, including a primitive inventory. Too bad he didn't have Excel and a laptop to help him.

We ran the business until 1979, and it was shortly after that when I enrolled at MCC in Business Data Processing. At last: back to computers, and what surprises awaited me! I felt like a kid in a candy store with plenty of money to get what I wanted.

Wow! Programming classes! More FORTRAN, COBOL, something called RPG, and BASIC. I took them all. I loved FORTRAN, but unless I wanted a career in math or science, there seemed little use for it for me, except academic interest. COBOL was a challenge, and it was useful, but the coding was too wordy, too long. RPG - well, I could never figure out its internal logic. For me it was hopeless. BASIC was my favorite because it was easy to use, easy to understand, and very easy to manipulate. I was even able to create animation. Our last project was to do just that. I created a curtain that slowly opened up and an airplane came swooping down for touchdown and take-off. And in color, too! Of course, it doesn't compare to what is done now with all the new languages, but at that time it was a triumph for me. My instructor thought so, too, since I got an A+ on the project and an A for the course.

I took classes part-time from 1979 until I got my Associates Degree in 1984. By this time we had gotten computers at home. My older son had his Vic 20 and then an Apple. My husband and I finally got an Acer1000 after he himself had taken a computer class and discovered how useful one could be. Our lives changed with the coming of desktop computers - made many things easier, opened up roads and views we never expected to find.

* I say "back" to Chicago because I spent a little more than a year between my freshman and sophomore college years working at Allied Radio; many of you may remember Knight Kits - those wonderful put-it-together-yourself precursors to build-it-yourself computers. I didn't work with those kits other than to help make purchase adjustments for a short time.

In the next part, I'll tell you about the many ways each one of us made use of computers.

Next month: Part 3