

McHENRY COUNTY COMPUTER CLUB

USERS GROUP FOR PC-COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS



AUGUST 2010
VOLUME 27 No. 8

The August 2010 meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is August 14, at the Salvation Army Building, 290 W. Crystal Lake Ave., in Crystal Lake.

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.

Meeting Agenda

- Introductions & Reports
- Demo - iTunes/iPod - Jim Bierle
- Q&A

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

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

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

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

UPCOMING DEMOS

- *August* Itunes/Ipod - Jim Bierle
- *September* Anniversary Party ; Helicopter Demo - John Katkus ; Extended Q&A
- *October* Tru-Crypt and Flash Drives- Lyle Giese

MC³ OFFICIALS

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Newsletter Editor : Lucë York info@Mc3ComputerClub.org (for articles & suggestions ONLY)
Past President : John Katkus
Webmaster: Cindi Carrigan
Board Members : Jack Luff ; Dave Lutes ; Jim Bierle ; Bruce Eckersberg

Questions & Answers

Editor's note: The Q&A from July's meeting are AWOL. In the event that they eventually show up, they will be added to whichever issue comes after their reappearance. Apologies from the Board.



Joomla! - A Low-Cost, Accessible Way to Build a Web Site

by Cindi Carrigan

As most of you know, I build websites every day for fun and profit. Sometimes, though, I come up against organizations or people who really need a web site but don't have a budget for professional design and hosting. In most cases, those organizations are staffed by volunteers who may or may not be interested in learning html.

Joomla! is an open source CMS (Content Management System), which means that using Joomla! doesn't cost anything to use. And since Joomla! is open source, other developers who support open source projects also develop add-ons for Joomla!, too. This means that, with some practice, you can adapt Joomla! to do anything you want to do on a web site of this type.

I took a start-up class with the HWG-IWA, an organization that offers memberships to people interested in web sites, and when you are a member, their classes are discounted by \$100. It was an easy class, but the instructor never offered any information outside of the text book, which was Building Websites with Joomla! 1.5 by Hagen Graf.

Then only thing you need other than some form of manual (there is one available at the Joomla! web site) is web hosting. Joomla! requires a special type of web hosting, since it's built on a combination of the Apache web server, PHP (a scripting language) and MySQL (a relational database management system). There is a list of them on the Joomla! web site (<http://resources.joomla.org/directory/support-services/hosting.html>). For a hobby site that won't need a lot of bandwidth (streaming video or large download items), a low-cost host should fit the bill. I chose JustHost (www.justhost.com) because they include Fantastico, which is an automated installer for Joomla!. It really handled all the installation after answering a few questions. It also didn't hurt that the total cost for a year of hosting was \$41.

A word of caution, though: At this price for hosting, customer support is not as fast as a full-priced host. The domain name that you choose will belong to the host - the hosting company may charge you an exorbitant fee to transfer the domain to you. If the domain name is important, purchase your domain name from LCR Computer or another reputable company and then host it at one of the bargain hosts, after asking them what the fees will be for transferring the domain to another host, if you choose to do so.

So, if you've always wanted a web site, are willing to learn how to manage a CMS to build one and have less than \$100 to invest, Joomla! might be a good solution for you. If you are interested in learning more about this in upcoming newsletters, please send an e-mail to info@mc3computerclub.org with Joomla! in the subject line, and I'll make this into a series as I learn more about what can be done with this interesting web solution.



Freeware

by Al Schrader

Have you ever taken your car in to be repaired and nothing could be found wrong at the time they looked at it or have a plumber come out to look at a leaky pipe only to find that it is not leaking when they arrived? Well the same thing happens with computers, but there is a free service (sorry, not freeware. but it's free) that may help you show what's wrong. It is called, and can be found at, <http://showmewhatswrong.com/>

There is a short movie to watch that explains how it works. In essence, however, what you do is have your technician or expert or a friend go to this web site, insert their name and email address. They will then be emailed a personalized link, which is what they email to you. Now, when you receive this personalized link, you click on it. This then allows you to type in your name; then click "Start Recording". You now have up to 5 minutes to re-create the problem. Your screen will be recorded along with any narration through your microphone. When you're done, just click the stop button. It will then process, upload, and send an email to your friend (expert) telling them it's time to view the video. Thumbs up!



CloneZilla

by John Katkus

A couple of meetings ago, Lyle gave a demo of CloneZilla, and I was impressed with the demo. But my question was - would it really work for me? I thought that I saw some of the parts that might cause some confusion. I was looking for a good way to backup my hard drive on several laptops and my main computer, so I thought this deserves a try. The one thing that was critical for me for this test is that I would do what the demo said and not try to improve on the instructions.

In my opinion there is no good backup program that does not also do a good restore, so that would be my test. I was able to pick up a 500 Gig external hard drive for about \$50, downloaded the CloneZilla disk, and my Gateway Laptop needed to be backed up, so I was good to go.

What I did was to follow the instructions in the demo that Lyle did. I had a copy I had to see if this could be done by someone that had not done this backup before. I would like to say that Lyle covered all of the important steps for me to be able to get the backup done. I did notice his caution of creating the folder on the hard drive before CloneZilla was started.

The steps were followed and it appeared that the hard drive had been backed up, but I was not yet convinced that this was actually done. You have to remember that I am basically paranoid, and I typically do not believe anything that I have not tested.

I replaced the hard drive in my Gateway and loaded the CloneZilla program, which is actually a Linux application. I remembered the rule that a user had told me some time ago. That was RATS rule, which means Read All The Screen. So that is what I did when trying to do the restore and did not seem to have any issues doing this restore.

So it was now to test to see if this really worked as Lyle's demo said that it would. I am happy to report that the restore worked and the Gateway worked as it should have. I have been very happy with the results of this test, and CloneZilla would get an A for a program that does what it is supposed to do and it works!

So what does this mean to the members of MC3? From my point of view this is a great program to use, but you must remember the RATS rule and take your time. Good luck with your backups: *this is something you should really do as soon as possible.*

Thanks, Lyle, for doing the demo and showing me [all of us] how to use this great program.

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Electronics Recycling Event

On Saturday, September 11 - from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM - there will a **FREE Disposal Service** at the McHenry County Fairgrounds located at Rt.47 & Country Club Road in Woodstock for the following items:

Televisions	VCRs	Handheld electronics
CRT monitors	Keyboards & Mice	I-Pods
LCD monitors	DVD players	CD players
Laptops	Computers	Game Boys
Printers	Miscellaneous Cables	Fax Machines
Computer Parts	Copiers	Telephones
Stereos	Cell Phones	
Speakers	Game Counsels	

Though the date is the same as our Anniversary Meeting, nevertheless, the event is until 3 PM. There should be plenty of time for any of us club members to get over there with such items as mentioned so we can (finally) get rid of them without having to feel guilty of putting them in a landfill. All the items will be recycled. It is being hosted by the McHenry County Council of Governments with recycling services provided by Vintage Tech Recyclers, Inc. (This information was provided to my library - Woodstock Public - so that we could pass it on to anyone who's interested. **Lucë**)

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A very special thanks to all who responded to my last-minute request for articles for the newsletter.

I wish all members would take a really hard look at the variety of articles we have provided. I dare each and every one of you who has never contributed an article to this newsletter to tell me truthfully that nothing ever happens to you or your machines/programs that could possibly be of interest to anyone else in the club. I dare you to tell me that you can't come up with some kind of article - if only a short story of something that has happened to you over the years. I also dare you to tell me that you haven't ever benefited or been interested in any of our articles.

Then go to your computer and write something for near future issues. And remember - don't worry about your writing style - that's my job. **Lucë**