

# McHENRY COUNTY COMPUTER CLUB

USERS GROUP FOR PC-COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS



NOVEMBER 2010  
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The **November 2010** meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is **November 13**, 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 - Networking - Lyle Giese & Bob Wagner
- Break
- 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](mailto:info@Mc3ComputerClub.org)

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

## UPCOMING DEMOS

- *November* Networking - Lyle Giese and Bob Wagner
- *December* Photo Shop Elements - Cindi Carrigan
- *January* Access - Jack Luff

## MC<sup>3</sup> OFFICIALS

President : Larry Freeman      [lpfreeman@hotmail.com](mailto:lpfreeman@hotmail.com)  
Vice President : Bob Wagner      [rmwagner@ameritech.net](mailto:rmwagner@ameritech.net)  
Secretary : Shirley Teetsov  
Treasurer: Lyle Giese      [Lyle@lcrcomputer.com](mailto:Lyle@lcrcomputer.com)  
Database Manager : Dan Weise  
Newsletter Editor : Lucë York      [info@Mc3ComputerClub.org](mailto: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

No Q&A available for this month. **Note:** Please bring more questions to the November meeting.



### Freeware

*by Al Schrader*

yEd Graph Editor (download it here [http://www.yworks.com/en/products\\_yed\\_download.html](http://www.yworks.com/en/products_yed_download.html) )

This is a flow charting tool that is now version 3.6 and comes in 4 versions for Windows, Mac, Linux and Java . A flow chart is a graphical or symbolic representation of a process. Although they call yEd Graph Editor a diagramming tool, I use it as a flow charting tool. I use this to map out my computer and TV networks (I have Uverse) along with my phone system (Ooma), which helps when I need to trouble shoot them. It also gives me a pictorial view so I can isolate wiring or for when things just don't work. This is a drag and drop program, which makes it easy to position the included icons and connect them. What I especially like is that it gives you a way to arrange everything automatically in different layouts so it looks professionally done. When done, you can export it in 12 different formats, including SWF and PDF (the ones I use). I really do not use flow charting software often, but for free the price is right and simple is good. I give this a thumbs up.



### I Deserve a Better Instruction Manual

*by John R. Gyorki*

When I spend hundreds or thousands of dollars for computers, software, and other complex electronic gear today, I expect to have a complete instruction manual packed along with it. For instance, the first desktop computer I bought in the '70s came with two hardcover, 3-ring bound manuals that were remarkably complete. One described the Operating System, and the other was a Basic software handbook. They were clearly written in modern, acceptable English grammar and made sense. The first procedural step was described first; the second step next, and so on. I could actually read the manuals and understand how to navigate the software and use the computer hardware. What happened to these instruction manuals? The most recent computer I purchased had only one sheet of paper that contained a few pictures for connecting the hardware. Incredible; no book!

Now, when I need to know more about my new computer, I have two choices: I can go online and download an instruction manual or something similar, or I can go to Borders Book Store and buy a book written by a dude who had nothing to do with designing or manufacturing the product. After having said that, I admit, in some cases, the author had worked for the company at one time, or was commissioned to write a manual by interviewing someone at the company.

So, look at the first case: Go online. What if I cannot get online in the first place because I don't have a manual to tell me how to go online to get the manual online? Stupid? No, it happens. Moreover, frequently when I do download the manual, it is so confusing, I cannot understand it. It appears to be written by someone whose native language is not English - it's a translation from something unknown!

And a lot of information and data are lost in the translation. What is worse, step two comes before step one, and so on! Look at case number two: Buy a book at Borders. Many of these books are incomplete, or do not discuss the area where I need to have detailed information. And others are prohibitively expensive! Many are written for “Idiots” and “Dummies.” Sorry, I am not one of these. Moreover, if I bought an HP-9000 laptop, what are the chances that a book was written about that particular model? Zilch! Compare that to a camera. I can buy a Nikon D40 that comes with a very comprehensive manual. And if I want another book to supplement it, I can buy a book written by an expert who actually uses the camera.

The thing that precipitated this rant is an “Air Card Module” that I recently purchased. It came with a very small manual that seemed to cover the device well enough to get me on the Internet and receive e-mail. But, after I energized the module, it never operated the same way twice. Sometimes it worked plugged into the computer and other times it would work only when unplugged! Reading either the paper manual or the online manual never helped me. Today, it does not work at all. And the green power light just turned yellow! What does that mean? It is not in the book. Where do I go for help? Should I call customer service and talk to a foreigner whose language or accent I cannot understand, or should I go back to the local service center and talk to a salesperson who knows less about it than I do, because he cannot afford to own one himself? No, I will return the module and get my money back. What would you do?

*Posted by John R. Gyorki on October 9, 2010 at 11:30am on Engineering Exchange  
(<http://www.engineeringexchange.com/profiles/blogs/i-deserve-a-better-instruction>).  
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## MC<sup>3</sup> 2011 Elections

We are fast approaching the end of another successful MC<sup>3</sup> year, which means that the time for the election of officers is upon us. According to the club’s By-Laws, the elections are to take place at the regularly scheduled club meeting in December. That means that all nominations for any of the positions on the ballot need to be in by the November meeting. Nominations will be closed for this term at the end of the November meeting. Your last chance to be one of the officers of the club will be at the November meeting when the current president will go through the list of positions and solicit nominations from the floor for the last time this year.

Below is the list of positions available on the Executive Committee. If you would like to take on any of the following positions, please let [Bob Wagner](#) know before the November meeting or Larry Freeman or Dave Lutes at the November meeting.

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster, Editor, Director 1, Director 2, Director 3, Director 4

Bob Wagner/2011 Nominating Committee Chairman



John Katkus found this link that he thought might be of interest to other club members:  
<http://blogs.techrepublic.com.com/five-tips/?p=345&tag=nl.e101>

