

# McHenry County Computer Club

Users Group for PC-Compatible Systems



**June 2011**

**Volume 28 No. 6**

The [June 2011](#) meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is [June 11](#), 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: BYOB ([Bring Your Own Browser](#)) - Jim Bierle
- Break
- Q & A

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

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Direct technical questions to MC3 at: [info@Mc3ComputerClub.org](mailto:info@Mc3ComputerClub.org)

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

## upcoming demos

- *June*            *Browsers*
- *July*            *TBA*
- *August*        *TBA*

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## **Questions & Answers**

**Q: I get this popup while reading my email. I don't understand it.**

A: The popup shows an "Add Security Exception" from Thunderbird. It shows the pop server for email is set to "pop.att.yahoo.com:995" and claims the site's SSL certificate name does not match.

ATT/Yahoo email service is now requiring the use of SSL encrypted sessions. In SSL (Secure Sockets Layer, same as using https instead of http), the name of the site is embedded into the SSL certificate. This is claiming that the embedded name is not the same as the one we put in the Server field.

I did not notice at the meeting that the name was set with a :995 at the end. This is proper syntax for a URL, but I wonder if putting that in here is what is causing this issue. I am now thinking that setting the port number here is the wrong place for it and is causing the error.

**Q: Windows7: Task bar moved to right side of screen from bottom. How do I put it back?**

A: This is not unique to Windows7 and can happen with any version of Windows after 3.1.

The taskbar can be on any side of the screen or free floating in the middle of the screen. Just grab it in a blank area of the taskbar with the mouse using the right mouse button and drag it where you want.

**Q: Can you show how to force a WiFi connection from a WiFi Laptop to a WiFi printer through a router?**

A: One - this depends on the printer driver. Two - it depends on the printer setup on the printer.

First you need to get the printer connected to the WiFi access point. Some printers have a front panel that you can use to set this up. Some printers require a PC connected via a USB cable to set this up. Once the printer is connected to the WiFi, I normally give it a fixed IP address. However, some printer drivers on the PC can search for printers and connect to them by name.

If your printer driver can search for the printer, it will then go out and find the printer for you. Otherwise you set up the printer drive with the fixed IP address, as I mentioned above.

Really, this process depends on a lot of variables and I cannot cover all possibilities in a short Q&A answer.

Q: I have two accounts on my WinXP machine, how do I setup auto-login? How do I do this in Win7?

A: See: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/315231> for instructions on how to set up auto-login in WinXP. Read this article carefully because it also contains instructions on how to bypass the auto-login if the automatic user account becomes corrupt.

Here is an article on how to do this under Win7:

<http://channel9.msdn.com/Blogs/coolstuff/Tip-Auto-Login-Your-Windows-7-User-Account>

Read and practice how to bypass the auto-login so that you **KNOW** how to do it when you really need it. Otherwise, you run the risk of locking yourself out of your computer (the problem that you are trying to solve by creating more than one account!).

Q: What are the driving forces for purchasing a solid state drive vs. a conventional SATA hard drive?

A: A solid state drive has no moving parts and uses a lot less power than a conventional hard drive. Both of these features are important to laptop users. The newer solid state devices have logic to self-correct for errors and are faster than ever before. There is a limitation on R/W cycles, but it is very high now and along with the self-correction features make the solid state drive a good alternative.

Q: WinXP IE8. My hard drive is working constantly when no programs are running. Task Manager shows Iexplorer.exe having a lot of activity. How do I fix it?

A: First of all, it may be a trojan/virus. Is the first letter of that process an upper case I or a lower case L? In the second case, it's a trojan. It's hard to tell the difference between the two letters on the screen.

Q: Where can I find a list of processors that I can delete with hurting operations?

Q: How do I minimize the number of startup programs so my computer starts faster?

A: Google each one and read about them. And decide if you can stop them without harm.

Each one will be different in how you disable them. For instance, Windows Messenger needs to be opened and find the preferences and turn off 'Start with Windows' and 'auto-login'.

For Services that are running, you have to go into the control panel, then Administrative Tools, and then Services to disable stuff. If you disable the wrong stuff here, you can disable access to your computer, so be careful.

Q: Does Windows 7 have a firewall? If so, how do I access it?

A: Open Control panel and change the view to large or small icons. Look for Windows Firewall.

Q: In Win7 or Vista, Outlook email having a web address in it, clicking on it shuts down. How does one change this feature?

A: Open Control Panel and change View to large or small icons. Click on Internet Options. Click on the programs tab at the top of this window. If you want to use IE, click on Make Default near top. If you want to set a different browser as your default, down further in the Internet Programs section, click on Set Programs and select the browser you want to use as your default browser.

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## **Freeware**

*by Al Schrader*

Column: Freeware

*by Al Schrader*

PagePlus Starter Edition by Serif

Download it here: <http://www.serif.com/desktop-publishing-software/>

I use Microsoft word to do word processing and I use Photoshop to adjust photos and excel to do all the number crunching and Coreldraw to create new items. I then use PagePlus to put everything together and create a final product.

PagePlus is a desktop publishing program, which I use as an organizer to organize all the items created by other programs into brochures to books, menus to magazines, flyers to forms or anything else. I have total control using PagePlus to place text or photos precisely where I want them. When I became proficient using PagePlus, it was so much easier than trying to use Microsoft Word (try resizing photos without disrupting the rest of the document).

The freeware starter version has some limitations, but I am currently using version 2. The new version 5, upon which the freeware version is based, includes many new tools that my paid version 2 does not have. I give this program a thumbs up.

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## **Two Excel Notes**

*First Note:* While I don't agree with the conclusion in a recent article concerning the demise of Excel, it certainly is clear that Google intends to make their spreadsheet as good as Excel. In that article, the writer reports that an important feature of Excel – Pivot Tables – is being offered at Google Docs. Pivot Tables are considered to be the center of Excel because they represent how data can be transformed in a simple, user-friendly manner to create information. Even though Excel has dominated the spreadsheet world, one must remember that "things change," sometimes quickly, sometime slowly. There now is an online guide for creating and editing pivot table reports – which is a starting point for, perhaps, major change in spreadsheets. Hence, the author predicts that Excel will decline – at some point.

*Second note:* I was at one of my organization's major membership meetings between our two meetings last week. One of the sessions I attended was on High Performance Computing. An interesting part of this presentation was on High Performance Excel.

Background: A big item in insurance company valuation/financial reporting these days is scenario testing. A company is required to develop a "complete" computer model of the

company, and to run it many, many times, with random numbers affecting key parameters, to see how varied future results might be. One calculation requires a company to run 1000 scenarios and to calculate the average of the 300 least favorable. The company is required to run many more, 5000 or 10,000, if there is any indication if 1000 scenarios does not capture a reasonable estimate of the variation.

These company models are quite complex and have been developed in a variety of languages. Excel would be a reasonable tool except for the need to do 1000 or more runs. Also, a model developed in Excel would be transparent to many more people than one written in a computer language especially for this purpose.

The High Performance Computing environment outlined at the meeting consisted of an input node, a scheduler node, an input/output node and many client nodes. (The number of client nodes depends on the application, but 200 is probably a minimum.)

High Performance Excel allows the client nodes to be computers running Excel if the model was developed in Excel.

High Performance Excel requires Excel 2010, Windows 7 and Microsoft Server 2008 and is just starting to be used. A limitation is that the feeds to Excel are in 64K "chunks", so several chunks may have to be sent for an application. This is true in spite of the much higher limits in Excel 2007/2010 over earlier versions. Another limitation is that the random number generator in Excel still leaves a bit to be desired. The advantage is that the client computers can be the computers on workers desks (that mostly have Excel) that are unused overnight and weekends. (The traditional environment required much higher end machines that were used only a few months of the year.)

I do not expect to personally be involved in such situations, but, as an Excel user, I found this to be an interesting development.

**Jack Luff** (*Article in [First Note](#) above summarized by the editor.*)

## **For What It's Worth...**

If you sum a column with =A2+A3+A4+A5+A6+A7+A8+A9+A10...  
you're not an Excel expert.

If you sum a column with a calculator and type the answer into your spreadsheet,...  
you're are not an Excel expert.

If you don't know the difference between "Macros" & VBA -  
You're not an Excel Expert.

If you've been using Excel for 10 years and don't know what =TODAY() is  
You're not an Excel Expert.

If you receive a file from somebody and their sheet names are "Sheet 1", "Sheet 2", and "Sheet 3"... and 2 and 3 are empty...  
they are likely not an Excel expert.

If you use the TRANSPOSE function to reference a horizontal year range to a vertical year range on another sheet,  
you are faking being an Excel expert.

If you think a PivotTable is a coffee table with one leg,  
you are not an Excel expert.

If you think a 3D formula is only used in the making of the movie Avatar,  
you are not an Excel expert.

If you don't know the difference between absolute and relative cell references,  
you are absolutely not a relative of an Excel expert.

*Contributed by Jack Luff*

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## XP Workgroup Broken, Couldn't Transfer Files

*by Dan Weise*

I needed to transfer files between XP boxes on a home workgroup. I remembered that I had to go in to enable sharing on various folders, but got an error message:



I turned off the Windows Firewall, but that didn't help. I was pretty sure that permissions was not the issue because my home boxes have no users, they default to Admin (yeah, I know that's a security risk).

The important lesson that I learned is that the first part, the part about permissions is boiler plate, it always shows up:



The real cause is more likely to be the 2nd part of the error message:



When I Googled "Not enough server storage is available" I came up with several tech sites and a Microsoft site that explained how insufficient memory allocation in a registry key or the absence of the Key altogether would produce this error.

In my case, 2 out of 3 XP Pro boxes were missing the key entry in the registry.

The registry key and its Dword were explained in the web fora Google hits. When I entered the key in each registry and defined its DWord for the appropriate level of memory, bang, I was connected and sharing files.

So when you see the message about permissions and there's something else, go to the something else first.

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