

McHenry County Computer Club

Users Group for PC-Compatible Systems



February 2012

Volume 29 No. 2

The February 2012 meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is [February 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: Network
- 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

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

upcoming demos

- February - Network
- March - Email Fraud - Lyle Giese
- April - Word 2010, Pt. 2 - Lucë York
- May - Apps for I-phone - Jim Bierle

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Past President : John Katkus
Webmaster: Cindi Carrigan
Board Members : Jack Luff ; Dave Lutes ; Jim Bierle ; Bruce Eckersberg

Questions & Answers

Q: I have Firefox v8 and it's asking me to update it. How big is the new version?

A: I just got a notice that v9.0.1 is out. The Windows version is 14.6 megs in size.

Q: Picture sizes are by number, like 2304 x 172 or 640 x 480. How do I change to 5x7 or 8x10 (inches)?

A: The computer doesn't care about inches really. Only when you print a picture is there any concern about size in inches. The numbers the computer cares about denote the number of pixels across and down the picture.

Each pixel is a discrete point of information about the picture. Printers print at 300 dpi (dots per inch) for text and pictures need 600 dpi or higher for good picture printouts.

So if your picture is 640 x 480, you have 640 points or pixels across the picture in a horizontal line. At 300 dpi, that comes out to 2.5 inches of data horizontally. If you try to elongate the line to 5 inches, it will be of very poor quality. You will see distinct dots or splotches.

Q: What is a good anti-virus program that doesn't slow down the computer too much?

A: Most of the time, this is caused by not enough ram. If you are running WinXP, 500meg of ram is not enough once you load a decent AV program. During the discussion about this issue, the real problem is slow to startup. That is normal.

When starting up, many programs want to 'phone home'. That slows down the computer, and it's normal for that to take 5 to 10 minutes. Speed will come up to normal after that.

Q: Can you copy files from Win7 Ultimate to a laptop running Win7 Home? Can you use a USB cable for this?

A: Yes, you can copy files. A USB cable is not your first choice because it was not designed to connect two computers together. If you have a home network connecting these computers to the Internet, that would be my first choice. Share out portions of your hard drive and copy files between the two computers.

My next choice would be to use a USB memory stick or a USB hard drive.

Q: I have a laptop with Win7 Home Premium and want to upgrade to Win7 Ultimate. Laptop has 2g of ram, 2.4 gig processor and 250 gig hard drive that is about 30% full. Can this be done or do you need to do a clean install?

A: Yes, you can upgrade to Win7 Ultimate. It should be a seamless upgrade. However, 2g of ram is not enough ram for effective use of the laptop. I recommend at least 4g of ram when using Win7.

January Demo Links

Bob Wagner

Here are the links to the various sites for the software that I demoed at the January MC3 meeting.

FastStone - Image Viewer, Capture, Photo Resizer: <http://www.faststone.org/>

CCleaner: <http://www.piriform.com/ccleaner>

VLC Media Player: <http://www.videolan.org/>

Auto Hot Key: <http://www.autohotkey.com/>

Freeware

by Al Schrader

Your Information on Google and Track the Trackers with Ghostery

To find out what Google knows about me, I can just go to <https://www.google.com/dashboard/> and sign in using my gmail account. I can see just about anything related to Google products that I use or have used in the past (kinda scary, but also it reminded me of some items I had forgotten about).

I always knew that whenever I was on the internet that usually everything I do is recorded somewhere. So, here is an add on for Firefox that not only stops web sites from tracking me but it shows me who is doing the tracking. I went to <http://www.ghostery.com/>, downloaded and installed it. Now, when I go to any web site, a little window pops up in the upper right-hand corner showing me who or what wanted to track me. The Ghostery tracks the trackers. It's interesting to see how many trackers there are on one web site alone. I am giving the Ghostery a thumbs up.

Here is a link sent by Dave Lutes that is worth investigating by anyone interested in computers.

<http://www.makeuseof.com/pages/best-windows-software>

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