

McHenry County Computer Club

USERS GROUP FOR PC-COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS



AUGUST 2008
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The **August 2008** meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is **August 9**, 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.

N.B.: The Salvation Army has asked us not park in front of the dumpsters or in other designated spaces. Your vehicle is subject to towing if it is not parked in the appropriate spaces.

Meeting Agenda

09:00 General Business Meeting
09:15 Demo: Maintenance - Lyle
10:00 Break
10:15 Q&A

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

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

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

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

UPCOMING DEMOS

September - Overview of Vista - Jim Bierle; Helicopter flying - John Katkus

October - Routers - Lyle

November - Excel - Jack

NOTE: *Concerning the Excel Demo in November:* You will notice that a demo on Excel is scheduled for November. This is partly a result of Excel being the top area of interest in our recent survey on demos. This survey did identify a number of topic areas within Excel, but we have had demos in most of these areas over the past several meetings. **So I would like some further feedback on what to cover in November.** Please stop by the Raffle Table and let Jack know of any thoughts you have.

Lo and behold: the first try on both phones brought up their instruction books! Five minutes later both phones were primed with the calling card numbers. My wife thinks I am a genius. But now I know I have to start every query in the most logical place - GOOOOOOOOOGLE!

Contributed by Joe Marto

Questions & Answers

Q: The latest update to WinXP and Zone alarm do not get along. How do we fix this?

Q: A few days ago, one of my PC's stopped connecting to the Internet.

Q: What is the scoop on the big deal about updates to fix DNS on the Internet?

A: Believe it or not, these are all related. On patch Tuesday in July (the second Tuesday of the month), there was a coordinated update pushed out for WinXP and several other platforms related to some bugs in DNS software. I still **don't really know why this affected WinXP**, a desktop OS, but...

The update for WinXP conflicted with ZoneAlarm. You can reduce the security level from High to Medium in ZoneAlarm to get back on the Internet and then update ZoneAlarm and return ZA to High security. Or shut down ZoneAlarm and update and turn it back on.

Always when updating ZoneAlarm, select upgrade and never 'Clean Install,' or all your settings in Zone Alarm are reset to factory settings.

The bugs in DNS supposedly allow hackers to feed bad information to DNS servers to allow hackers to feed bad information out to users. This is also called Cache Poisoning. This could result in going to hacker sites instead of the site you asked for. It's not easy to do this, but these patches make it even harder to hack into DNS.

This also brings up one of my favorite subjects. I do not use Automatic updates and I never update a machine until at least two weeks pass since patch Tuesday. I like to let someone else find the bugs and give Microsoft time to fix them or let us know how to work around these issues.

Q: Is there a way to connect to AT&T's DSL without using their software?

A: Yes, but it's not easy and requires some knowledge of the hardware you are using to connect to their DSL network. To do this requires you to connect to AT&T's network using a special user id & password, which allows you to connect to their registration servers. Follow the registration process up to a certain point (when it tries to send updates to your computer) and then insert your new AT&T email address and password into the DSL router. If you stop this process too soon, you won't have a working email address with AT&T. If you continue too far into the process, you will get cut off until you change your login and password in the router.

Our recommended method is to use True Image or Ghost to image your computer. Use **AT&T's CD** and get everything setup and restore from the image you created.

Q: I have a PC with WinXP with multiple hard drives. With out being careful, I restarted the computer with the XP install disk in it and it started to install. I stopped the install before it completed. Now I have a multiple choice menu that comes up and only one choice works. How do I erase these other two entries?

A: Those are stored in a special file at the root of the C drive and it's called boot.ini. You need to **erase the extra sections** using a text editor after clearing the read only attribute on the file.

You can also use Windows to get to that point, by going to Control Panel, System, Advanced, Click on Settings in the Startup and Recovery sections and then Edit.

Q: When exporting Notes from Outlook 2000, I can get it out in CSV format(Comma Separated Values, compatible with Excel). How to I make **each of those lines a separate file**?

A: The best answer would be to create a macro in Excel to do that for you.

Excel Mini-Tutorial Experiment

If the wifi connection in our meeting room cooperates, we will present a short online tutorial on an introductory topic in Excel at our next meeting. This will be in addition to our regular program. If this works and is considered valuable by the membership, we will present similar material at future meetings. Potentially, the demonstration in November could consist of two or three tutorials on more advanced topics.

The source of these tutorials is Great Britain and the audio does have a distinct British accent. Additionally, the material is presented from a British perspective. However, it is hoped that issues in Excel are universal enough that you will find this material useful and worthwhile.

Jack Luff

Editor's Note: Once again I am asking ALL of our members to come up with some personal experience you've had with your computer or a particular software or hardware item. Just because you might not be a computer specialist doesn't mean that you couldn't tell the rest of us a tale or two about some incident - good, bad, funny, or simply informative. Don't worry about your spelling or grammar - that's my job. Who knows? You might find that you actually like writing about your computer times. Joe Marto's article is just the kind of material I'd like to see more of in our newsletter. You ALL can do it.

Lucë/MC³ Editor