

McHenry County Computer Club

USERS GROUP FOR PC-COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS



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The **February 2008** meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is **February 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: Ghost
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/>

Note from the Editor:

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Lyle, Dan, and Shirley for contributing to this issue of our newsletter. Also thanks are due to all those who helped with the answers to last month's questions.

All personal, computer-related articles are welcomed, and all non-copyrighted computer-related items may be sent to me for consideration for the newsletter.

Lucë

So, I started by uninstalling the T45 printer, the T45 fax, deleting the IEEE T Series devices in Device Manager, and uninstalling the HP OfficeJet T Series **software**. I **then turned the printer off** and disconnected the parallel cable.

Three attempted installations (and uninstalls after each) of the T45 driver failed in a row. In poking around, I noticed that the LPT3 port was taken by 'another application'. My computer has two parallel printers, the T45 and a Laserjet 4. I had installed PCI parallel port card (whose port resides on LPT3) so that I could run 2 parallel port printers. But there was some problem with the T45 being on LPT3. Who knows? It's Windows . . .

So I swapped cables between the LaserJet 4 and the T45, so that the T54 was connected on LPT1 and went through the uninstall routine again. I deleted the Laserjet 4 printer to free up the LPT1 port.

The 4th T45 installation attempt went OK.

In all attempts, I followed the steps in the HP instructions to a 'T', including having the printer turned off and the parallel cable disconnected until being prompted to connect the cable and turn the power on. And I restarted Windows just before the driver installation to do a 'clean' installation. Once the driver installed properly, the scan and fax functions were completely functional, just as they'd been in Windows 98. I quickly reinstalled the Laserjet 4 on LPT3, it worked fine. I made a restore point called "T45 printer fax working." The whole ordeal took 4 hours, start to finish.

I went over to my neighbors and found that his K60 had a different set of problems: His HP Officejet K Series software had no 'remove' button in "Add or Remove Programs". The bloated 150Mb app was there in the 'Program Files' folder, but didn't show up as a program in the program list (where an 'uninstall' was supposed to be), nor could it be removed from "Add or Remove Programs". I knew that if I didn't get it uninstalled, all attempts to re-install would be fruitless.

Back on the HP web site, I went poking around and discovered that hidden on his driver CD was an uninstall folder. In that folder were a .dat and .exe file. I double clicked the .exe, something appeared to run momentarily, but "HP Officejet K Series" program was still there, as were about 80-100 'K60' entries in registry.

Further research turned up a command statement, which included both **the .dat and the .exe files, which** had to be run from the command line. I dutifully copied the statement into the "Run" command line and a real uninstall exercise proceeded, after which the "HP Officejet K Series" program disappeared along with most of registry entries and the IEEE 1284.4 K Series device.

Thinking I'd uninstalled everything, I restarted Windows. When Windows was up, I inserted the driver CD and let it run. The driver install program did not start the installation, rather it found remnants of something it didn't like and wanted to run yet another uninstall program. I let it. Then I restarted Windows again and inserted the driver CD. This time, it offered to copy files, like a normal installation. It ran through most of the installation but stalled at an error regarding "lacking a Java virtual machine". I 'OK'd' the error, and the installation completed, asking to do a restart. The instructions we were using said to do the restart. The next step in the instructions was to turn the printer on. I allowed the restart, not realizing that Windows was supposed to find the printer during the restart, but the printer was still powered off. So Windows "Found new Hardware" didn't come up. Turning the printer on after Windows was up couldn't get the "Found new hardware" wizard running. So close, yet so far

I poked around the web for info on the "Java virtual machine" error but found nothing related to HP printer installation. Then I uninstalled the HP software (now easy to do because the remove

button had re-appeared in the "Add or Remove Programs" listing), there were no printers to uninstall, and tried yet another installation from CD.

This time, the installation again balked again at the Java virtual machine deal, but the installation completed nonetheless. I was careful to power on the printer and have the cable connected before restarting at the end of the install. This time, Windows "**Found new Hardware**" popped up and went through its paces. Several screens for setting up the fax appeared, and the data was entered. At the end, the printer printed, the fax faxed and a scan was done. Whew.

I made a restore point called "K60 printer fax working." 2½ hours start to finish.

It was apparent from the web forums, that people do follow the installation instructions but are unaware of the necessity of removing previous driver installation 'attempts'. I found the driver installation instructions from HP mostly valid (the step to turn the printer on should have come before the step to allow the restart), but installation instructions are not clear on the necessity of removing or uninstalling previous **driver(s)**. When previous drivers are removed, the driver worked fine for both All-in-Ones.

Contributed by Dan Weise

Questions & Answers

Q: What is ActiveX? Why do I need or want to use it?

A: From the Wikipedia:

"ActiveX is Microsoft technology used for developing reusable object oriented software components; ActiveX is an alternative name for OLE automation (OLE - Object Linking and Embedding), not a separate technology. While the term "Automation" refers to the overall technology, "ActiveX" refers to the objects that can be created and manipulated using Automation.

Due to Internet Explorer and Visual Basic's popularity in the late 1990s, many people incorrectly assume that all of ActiveX is related to ActiveX controls. ActiveX control is a special type of ActiveX object that is designed to be used similar to a plugin. The most common use of ActiveX controls is to build plugins for Internet Explorer."

What that means is **that** it's a small program that can be sent to your Internet Explorer to perform an action. Microsoft uses **ActiveX controls to determine whether** you have a real copy of WinXP or to see **whether you have the latest version** of the updated software needed. If you don't use ActiveX or turn it off, several other websites can malfunction when accessing them.

Q: I have an HP PhotoSmart 3210 All-in-one printer. If it's turned on, my PC won't start. If I turn it off or disconnect it, the PC starts up just fine.

A: The memory card reader in the printer is part of the problem. The second part is your bios settings on the computer. When starting up, your PC is set up to try to start from a USB attached device before the internal hard drive. The PC thinks that the card reader in the printer **is just such a device and tries** to boot from it. You can also go into the bios of your computer and tell it that the internal hard drive should be the first boot device.

Q: I have a printer that I try to print to from websites. How do I change the font size?

A: The websites are dictating the font and font size when displayed on the screen. And when you do a Ctrl P or file print, that information carries over to the printer. To change that, use your mouse to highlight the text that you want to print, **and** copy that to a word processor. Then you can change the font **and font size to whatever you prefer.**

Q: I have several item/icons in the systray area of the taskbar (just to the left of the time). How do I get rid of them?

A: **There is no one-size-fits-all** here. Each icon represents a program or service that is started when you turn on your computer. For instance, your AntiVirus program puts an icon there, which you really **can't** get rid of.

Another example is Instant Messenger. Instant Messenger is one program that you can tell to not **start on boot and it will not reappear.**

You need to learn what each icon is and take action for that program or service on a **case by case basis.** You will not get rid of them all, but you can get rid of some of them.

Q: When I want to open a program or file using a shortcut icon on the desktop I started getting an error message recently. The error mentions that <http://blogs.olderadio.net/wp-login.php> cannot be found. I have had some of these short cuts for a long time, and this just started to happen.

A: The program or files that you are trying to open want to talk to this website and use a specific php script. Chances are that **either this website or that script is gone.** In order to take further action, we would have to look at the properties for each icon and make adjustments as necessary.

Q: Now that Netscape is gone, which browser's email program is similar to Netscape?

A: I use Firefox for web browsing and Thunderbird from Mozilla. For their all-in-one product, take a look at SeaMonkey.

Q: I have Direct TV DVR. Can I download shows to my computer?

A: Depends on the recorder. Contact Direct TV for more information. No one here at the club is doing that so we are unable to **provide more guidance for you;** sorry.

Q: What sequence of procedures to you recommend for setting up a new Windows computer before connecting to the Internet?

A: If you have high speed Internet and a router, go online and get a good anti-virus program and a good firewall program and install them. Being behind a router and going to only one or two trusted websites is safe enough to grab these two programs and install them. I **recommend AVG antivirus and ZoneAlarm** for a firewall.

If you are on dialup or do not have a router, I would recommend downloading these two programs on a different computer and using a CDR or USB thumb drive to copy them over and install them before getting on the Internet. Then I would head directly to Windows Update and get all of the latest updates and patches from Microsoft.

Q: Internet Explorer - A site requires that popup blocker be turned off. How do I do that?

A: Inside IE, Tools --> Internet Options --> Privacy --> Settings under Pop-up Blocker to set IE's pop up options. One word of caution here! Addon toolbars from Yahoo and Gmail and others have pop blockers in addition to IE's. You may need to turn them off or adjust them also.

Q: In Excel 2007, my computer wants to make corrections automatically that are not what I want. Is there a way to make Excel behave better when working with formulas?

A: Each cell has a content type associated with it. The default is General. Excel can assume you are working with text when editing a formula. Change the content type on those cells to numbers and Excel may stop spell checking your formulas.

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"Who's on First" - updated to Computers 2008

(Abbott & Costello's "Who's on First" was originally broadcast in the 1930's. Fast forward to 2008 and try to imagine Abbott and Costello trying to buy/sell a computer. If you have never heard Abbott & Costello's "Who's on first," you might try to find a copy at your local library.)

COSTELLO CALLS TO BUY A COMPUTER FROM ABBOTT

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: Hello. I'm setting up an office in my den and I'm thinking about buying a computer.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: No, the name's Lou.

ABBOTT: Your computer?

COSTELLO: I don't own a computer. I want to buy one.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: I told you, my name's Lou.

ABBOTT: What about Windows?

COSTELLO: Why? Will it get stuffy in here?

ABBOTT: Do you want a computer with Windows?

COSTELLO: I don't know. What will I see when I look at the windows?

ABBOTT: Wallpaper.

COSTELLO: Never mind the windows. I need a computer and software.

ABBOTT: Software for Windows?

COSTELLO: No. On the computer! I need something I can use to write proposals, track expenses and run my business. What do you have?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yeah, for my office. Can you recommend anything?

ABBOTT: I just did.

COSTELLO: You just did what?

ABBOTT: Recommend something.

COSTELLO: You recommended something?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: For my office?

ABBOTT: Yes

COSTELLO: OK, what did you recommend for my office?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yes, for my office!

ABBOTT: I recommend Office with Windows.

COSTELLO: I already have an office with windows! OK, let's just say I'm **sitting at my computer and I want** to type a proposal. What do I need?

ABBOTT: Word.

COSTELLO: What word?

ABBOTT: Word in Office.

COSTELLO: The only word in office is office.

ABBOTT: The Word in Office for Windows.

COSTELLO: Which word in office for windows?

ABBOTT: The Word you get when you click the blue 'W'.

COSTELLO: I'm going to click your blue 'w' if you don't start with some straight answers. What about financial bookkeeping? You have anything **I can** track my money with?

ABBOTT: **Money.**

COSTELLO: **That's right.** What do you have?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: I need money to track my money?

ABBOTT: It comes bundled with your computer.

COSTELLO: What's bundled with my computer?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: Money comes with my computer?

ABBOTT: Yes. No extra charge.

COSTELLO: I get a bundle of money with my computer? How much?

ABBOTT: One copy.

COSTELLO: Isn't it illegal to copy money?

ABBOTT: Microsoft gave us a license to copy Money.

COSTELLO: They can give you a license to copy money?

ABBOTT: Why not? **THEY OWN IT!**

A few days later:

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: How do I turn my computer off?

ABBOTT: Click on 'START'

Contributed by Shirley Teetsov