

# McHENRY COUNTY COMPUTER CLUB

USERS GROUP FOR PC-COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS



JANUARY 2010  
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The January 2010 meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is January 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 : 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month.

#### Meeting Agenda

- Introductions & Reports
- Demo - Windows 7; Booting OS on one computer/hard drive - Lyle Giese
- Q&A

*Bring your questions; if you can't attend, submit questions to our website address.*

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](mailto:info@Mc3ComputerClub.org)

Please indicate that your email is for the editor.

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

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

#### UPCOMING DEMOS

- *January*            Windows 7 ; Booting OS ...
- *February*        Mail Merge - Bob Wagner
- *March*             Spring Party

N.B.: Suggestions for demo topics and volunteers for demos are always welcome.

Relevant articles and computer stories are also appreciated.

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## Questions & Answers

**Q: Am I notified as to when my club membership is up for renewal?**

A: If you get the monthly notice from the club about the next meeting, your email address is in the Treasurer's database and you will get a notice about your dues from Lyle.

**Q: Where is Disk Management in Win7?**

A: Same place as Vista and WinXP. Go to Control Panel. Change 'View by' to small icons. Double click on Administrative Tools. Then Computer Management, and then you will see Disk Management. The change in Win7 is how you change the view of Control Panel.

**Q: I have trouble with a new SATA drive not showing up in the bios.**

A: It could be a bad cable. It could be a bad setting in bios (set to raid instead of IDE mode or the SATA port you plugged into is turned off in the bios). Or it could be a bad or incompatible hard drive.

**Q: When my antivirus pops up a message asking what to do with a file it found, what is the right answer?**

A: Unless you strongly suspect a false positive (your antivirus program thinks a good file/program is bad), just select Vault or delete.

**Q: What is the best blank DVD to use + or \_?**

A: It depends on what you are going to do with it. Compatibility can be an issue with older DVD drives in a computer or if you are trying to burn a DVD for use in a DVD player hooked up to your TV. Trial and error is the best way to tell here.

**Q: How do you change 'Saved Read Only' to not write protected?**

A: If a file is saved with the read only attribute turned on, you can right click on the file and select properties in Windows Explorer. And then you can turn off the read only attribute.

If you wrote the file to a CDrom, that can be considered read only media for most programs.

If you are talking about a backup made by a program, it will depend on the program.

**Q: When using MSConfig, how do I keep it from reverting when rebooting?**

A: It sort of depends on what changes you are making with MSConfig. If you are trying to fight a virus or trojan, that's a losing battle. It is smart enough to know when you are trying to remove it that way and will just re-insert itself.

If you are making legit changes, on the first page are the options to not revert, and on first reboot, MSCConfig will popup a notice that you are running a modified config and allow you to check off that you don't want to see that notice again.

**Q: What are the minimum startup programs for Vista? What can I find a list?**

A: That's one of those mysteries of life. I don't think there is a list for Vista or Win7 or WinXP.

**Q: Is there a way to stream program on a PC (for instance, ccleaner to malwarebytes to adaware to backup)?**

A: Most of these programs require user interaction, so it's not just start one, wait for it to finish, then start the next one.

I have used a scripting program that can provide some user interaction to a program, but they are limited and require studying their scripting language. The biggest limitations are twofold. First, everything needs to be done via the keyboard. Not all programs allow that level of interaction.

The second limitation is these scripting programs need to know the exact and complete name of the program (what is displayed in the drag bar) to know if the program completed and closed the window. That can be complicated by some programs changing that text on its own. I know of two programs that do that. One because of the way it's called up, and the other changes its copyright notice and always displays the current year. So you have to remember to go in and change the script every year.

**Q: When a computer freezes, is there any process I could use, besides disconnecting the power and starting over?**

A: Basically no. Most of the time, you can press and hold the power button for 4 seconds and the computer should power off. But that is the same as disconnecting the power.

**Q: I am running Adaware and constantly see cookies that reference ATDMNT or ADTMT. It was suggested that I block the website in security settings on the browser, and I have done that. But I still get those cookies.**

A: First of all, those cookies may not be as harmful as you think. I do not recommend blocking cookies, since some are helpful. On my systems, I do not block or routinely remove cookies.

The only person I know that does that has a legit reason. He is a website programmer and needs to know what cookies are being placed on his system as part of his work.

The reference is to the type of cookie that is being placed on your computer, not where it came from. In order to block a cookie, you need to know what website put the cookie on your system in order to block or whitelist it.

**Q: I use MSWorks, and it keeps changing the default font. I want something else and every time I open MSWorks, it's back to the default font it was.**

A: From Microsoft's support site:

To change the default font or font size in the Works Word Processor, create a default word processor template configured to use the font and font size you want. To do this, follow these steps:

Open a blank document in the Works Word Processor.

Select the font and the font size that you want to use for all new word processor documents.

On the File menu, click Save As, and then click Template.

Type a name for the word processor template, click to select the Use this template for new Word Processor documents check box, and then click OK.

**Q: I have some older flash drives. Some are marked as using FAT and some as FAT32 file system. On my Win7 machine, the older ones marked FAT do not work, but will work on other computers running Win7. If I reformat them will I lose the U3 setup?**

A: If you reformat them, yes - the U3 setup is removed. It might be the U3 stuff that is causing this problem, however. But there is not enough info here to completely understand this issue.

With that said, Win7 can understand all types of FAT file systems (there are three actually) and that is not the underlying issue. It could be an issue with the partitions on the flash drive. Windows has problems working with a USB device that may have more than one partition on it. Another issue may be that these older units are not USB2 and plugging them into a USB2 port is confusing the device or USB port. And that can be USB port specific; in other words, it could work on one machine, but not on another.

**Q: I have an old desktop machine that was upgraded to WinXP and want to get a new computer running Win7. I am told it will not run any of my old programs.**

A: For the most part, Win7 will run most XP programs without any help. However, to get the most compatibility, you may need to run your programs in WinXPMode (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows\\_7\\_editions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_7_editions) to view which version of Win7 contains this feature).

The programs you mention in your questions (Office 97, Word 2000 & Quicken) may not have any problems. Quicken would be the only one I would want to test, but since this is a single user program (as opposed to Quickbooks) it may be ok. I would check with Intuit to make sure, and it may depend on the version of Quicken.

As an aside, some graphic intensive programs may still not work this way. But those should be few and you should investigate that with the publisher of that program before buying any machine.

You can also dual boot the new machine. However, you have to install the older version of Windows first. I am working on a triple boot machine, WinXP, Vista and Win7. There are limitations to this approach. This may be a future demo.

**Q: In Safe Mode, the run command disappears. How do I use the run command in safe mode?**

A: Ctrl-Alt-Delete and select the task manager. In the File pull down is the option to run a command. This works for WinXP, Vista, Win7, Win2000 and WinNT (3 or 4) and for any server version of Windows.

**Q: Does anyone know much about Wi-Max?**

A: Wi-Max is also know as 4G. Sprint is pushing out a 4G network now. Clear is a new 4G network and Comcast is involved in this somehow/somewhere along the line. It's just a new/faster cell phone data network. The coverage map for 4G will make the AT&T 3G red map look big right now.

**Q: What does the club think is the best free antivirus software?**

A: AVG has always been a leader in this area. The newer versions of AVG do take more resources than previous versions. With that, LCR has been recommending Kaspersky. It does not have a free version, only a 60 day demo. But Kaspersky does have aggressive pricing on a 3-computer package.

With that said, Adam and Lyle have seen many, many machines that have been infected and have seen the viruses & trojans walk through every antivirus program out there on the market at one time or another. So one bad experience should not have you shun that particular product.

**Q: Express card vs PCMCIA cards: What is the difference?**

A: Express cards have a much faster interface to the computer than PCMCIA or PC Cards. They do require a special socket on your computer for them.

**Q: Win7, can you recommend a good tutorial?**

A: Vista's interface is very similar to Win7, so just about anything about Vista will apply to Win7.

**Q: Can we have a demo on Internet TV?**

A: Please keep sending in your comments and suggestions for demos. Also please step forward and give a demo once in a while. We can always use someone new up in front.

One thing we have to try is whether we can get to Internet TV sites from our meeting location. They have a strong firewall between us and the Internet and some websites and features are not available because of that.

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## **Hi. My name is Jim, and I'm a gadgetaholic.**

I'll admit it: I'm hooked on gadgets. Not the stuff you see on the infomercials, although some of those choppers are intriguing, it's computers - especially the ones that talk to another.

My fascination with PCs started at work some 20 years ago when the office installed its first desk top IBM (clone), a Victor Adding Machine Computer. With a 4-inch stack of floppy discs, we ran our first word processing program. On Thursday mornings my friend would spend three hours computing last night's bowling results in a spreadsheet. The size of the hard drive prohibited saving anything on the machine, but I did love the grinding noise that announced the machine was working.

Enough of my personal history. I'm sure all the rest of us PC junkies have similar stories. This is about all of the extra STUFF I have accumulated. Not to mention all of the PCs. This started with a Sharp 256KB PDA, then a NEC mobile pro 770, with Windows CE that synced with Office. Now we are getting somewhere. The Palm pilot was next; this became my clerk telling me what meetings to attend. Last the Itouch IPod, with wifi ability - it has become a mini PC.

That's the stuff that lead me to this addiction. But that's not the real problem; that old junk is safely stored under the desk. The real problem is when we decide to board the snow bird and head south for the winter. It really gets complicated when I start packing for the trip to Florida. It starts with the laptop, the extra mouse & pad, floppy key board, power brick & cord, extra CDs, DVDs, USB flash drives, external hard drives. Then there's the IPod and its cords, digital cameras one for both my wife and me, the satellite radio, and the GPS.

Every one of them has its own power supply, USB cables, antenna, rechargeable batteries and, of course, battery chargers. It takes me an entire day to pack these bags of the toys. I can't forget the software: where's that CD case full of program backups? One of these days I have to transfer this stuff to a flash drive. Then there is the paper for the printer, both regular, card stock and photo paper. Why does my ink jet run out of ink one week before we are scheduled to leave?

I understand it's hypocritical to complain about having too many toys, and I admit that this could be a problem. But in today's gadget-filled world, I feel like an elf trying to pack Santa's Toy bag.

So my fellow MC<sub>3</sub> members...

**My name is Jim and I'm a gadget junky...**

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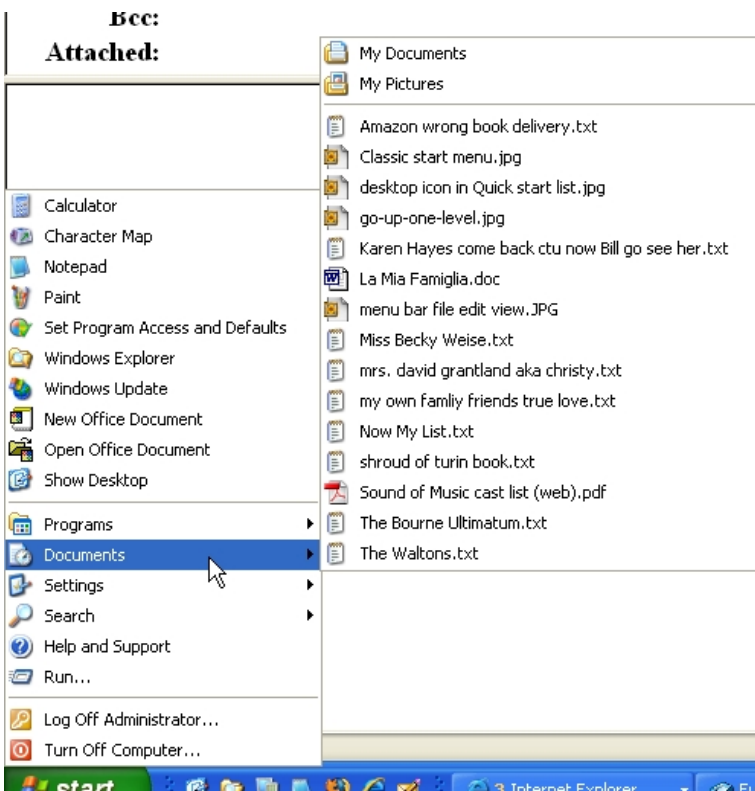
## Why Dan Hates Windows 7

My Dad is 89 and has a home network, a workgroup consisting of an XP box, a 98 box and a 2000 laptop. He just bought a Windows 7 box and I had the misfortune to visit him just after his new PC arrived UPS. Please note I'm an XP guy, I have barely touched Vista. Here's a recitation of my sad discoveries about Windows 7, out of the box:

a) XP's "classic view" is dead. The XP screen shot below is merely a fading memory at Microsoft.



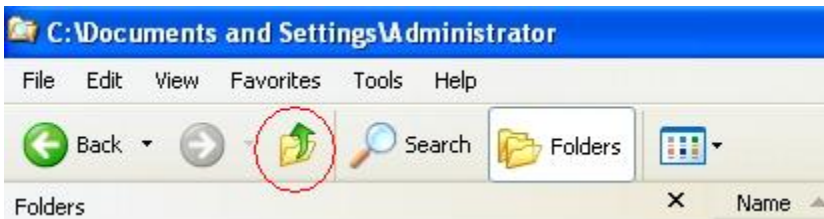
b) The start > documents list has disappeared.



You have to realize that Microsoft has only recently 'discovered' the indexed search engine. To force you to acknowledge their late-found discovery, they took away your documents list. So, rather than just click, click, pick your document, you are now forced to click & then type-in-a-search-term to find your recent document.

Why would anyone want useful a navigation tool like a document list when MS has only recently discovered the indexed search engine?

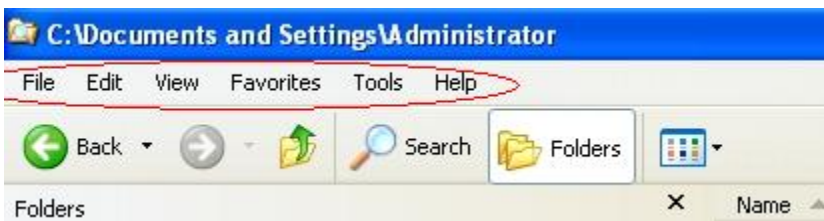
c) The go-up-one-level button



in Computer (formerly My Computer) has disappeared. A reliable source informs me that Windows Explorer was summarily executed and buried in an unmarked grave, so you can't opt for it in place of My Computer.

Why would anyone want useful a navigation tool like go-up-one-level when MS has recently discovered the indexed search engine?

d) The traditional file edit view menu bar in My Computer/Windows Explorer does not come up.



I finally discovered that the menu bar can be selected under Windows 7's new 'organize' button. Why not default to the long-accepted, conventional menu bar and allow it to be turned off, rather than hiding it behind an undefined new function label? Well, when the inmates run the asylum . . . .

Besides, why would anyone want a useful navigation tool like a menu bar when MS has recently only discovered the indexed search engine?

e) The directory tree "indents" have largely disappeared, making it difficult to determine what is what.

Why would anyone want a useful, visual navigation tool like indents when MS has only recently discovered the indexed search engine?

f) The 'desktop' icon in the quick start tray, by the start button in XP (where the cursor is pointing in the graphic below)



was moved to the extreme far right, where it is well hidden from view. It is a thin, vertical black bar, unlabeled, and indistinguishable from the status bar. I'm writing this on my XP box, so I don't have a graphic image to include, but you'd have to do a "Where's Waldo" search to find it. It took me several hours off hunting and pecking around to finally stumble onto it. Cruising the cursor over it temporarily displays the desktop, clicking it goes to the desktop.

I'm sure you're asking yourself by now, why anyone would want a useful navigation tool like the desktop icon in the quick start menu when MS has only recently discovered the indexed search engine?

g) My Dad's freeware "Grab & Burn" DVD writer program (works in XP) won't install in Windows 7, most likely because it doesn't conform to MS's digital rights obsession (it's missing a .dll that it doesn't need in XP). So much for XP program compatability with 7.

h) Windows 7 does not like to workgroup with XP boxes. Maybe it'll find an XP box and show some folders/files, maybe it won't. No consistency. Sharing folders or files is an exercise in itself.

Apparently 7 and Vista boxes will network automatically in MS's newly invented 'homegroup'. I conclude that crippling the former "workgroup" concept is an overt step to forcing people to abandon their XP boxes. I could understand 7 not networking well with other O/S's, but 98, NT, 2000, and XP are MICROSOFT products, not someone else's. All it would have taken for XP compatability would have been the additional choice "workgroup" in the networking wizard.

Also, for reasons inexplicable, 7 won't share entire drives. Shared sub folders or files will appear on networked PC's, but attempts to share all contents of a drive were fruitless. The implication is that each file or folder has to be shared, a royal pain.

Kindergarten report cards grade how well a child plays well with other children. My report card for Windows 7 reveals that "7 does not play well with its own progeny, Vista excepted". A classic case of gross immaturity, unquestionably genetic in nature. Unlikely to mature with age.

Besides, why would anyone want to network to one of their older computers when Microsoft has only recently discovered the indexed search engine?

Don't get me wrong. I love indexed search engines; they're dynamite. I continue to use Eudora (an email client), because Eudora has had its own indexed search engine for decades. However, the availability of an indexed search engine does not excuse the elimination of navigation tools that are already designed, debugged and widely in use. The elimination of commonly used navigation tools is nothing short of criminal.

On the good side, Windows 7 did properly install all 3 of Pop's legacy printers as networked or shared printers. And his 1 Tb hard drive partitioned OK.

But I'm ready to ask, where and when does the Linux computer club meet?

Dan

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We've all heard that a million monkeys banging on a million typewriters will eventually reproduce the entire works of Shakespeare.

Now, thanks to the Internet, we know this is not true.

*--- attributed to Robert Wilensky, University of California at Berkeley*

## Column: Freeware

*by Al Schrader*

I am going to try to write a monthly column in which I intend to review a freeware software title, with the end result of giving either a thumbs up or thumbs down rating.

My first freeware title is called "Fences 1.0," which I have been using at home and at work to organize all my desktop icons. I generally have many items on my desktop that tend to grow out of control because I think if they're located on my desktop I can find one faster than if I placed them elsewhere.

Using fences is as easy as drawing boxes on your desktop and then labeling them. I have one labeled "Internet" that contains everything I use while on the internet (Firefox, Thunderbird, ftp client, etc.) and others for "Graphics," "Computer," "Utilities," and "Misc." Once you create and label a fence, just drag and drop your icons - and yes, it is as easy as that. You can re-size the fence by grabbing a side or top and drag it to the size you want. But the best feature that I like is that a slider is created for each fence so you can move the slider up and down to find the icon you want, saving desktop space but still having access to all desktop icons.

I have found a couple of problems: when you place an icon or folder on your desktop, it tends to go under a fence so you have to move the fence out of the way by dragging it and then moving it back . Also when you place an icon on your desktop, it gets placed in a spot you did not select, so you have to move it where you want it.

They now have a pro pay version that adds more features, but I think the free one is just fine. So, I will give this freeware program a thumbs up only because it seems to keep me a little more organized. Find it here: <http://www.stardock.com/products/fences/index.asp>

If you have a freeware program that would fit in this column, please email me ([blinkers@4getful.com](mailto:blinkers@4getful.com)) and I will review it - or review it yourself - and I will place it here.

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