

# McHENRY COUNTY COMPUTER CLUB

USERS GROUP FOR PC-COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS



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The July 2009 meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is July 11, 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

09:00 General Business Meeting  
09:15 Break  
09:30 Excel - Jack Luff  
10:45 Q&A

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

Editor-in-Chief: Lucë York

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

*August* Online Resources - Bob Wagner

*September* Anniversary Party & Extended Q&A

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

## MC<sup>3</sup> OFFICIALS

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

## Questions & Answers

**Q: How do you select a good 22-inch Monitor/TV.? I would like a good monitor & TV. What is the best way to make this choice?**

A: Go to a store like Best Buy and do side by side comparisons. My personal opinion is that TV with the flesh tones presented is the key and may be the hardest to get 'right'. Side by side comparisons will show the differences and your personal preference will tell what looks best to YOU!

**Q: I want to print text in a larger font from a web page.**

A: I would cut & paste into an editor/word processor and change the size of the font. It's not easy from within a web browser.

**Q: How do I get column titles on multiple pages when printing?**

A: Go into Page Setup and it's set there before printing is selected.

**Q: When attempting to install programs from a CD or DVD, I get an error message saying "Invalid Win32 application...". OS is WinCP Pro and I have tried Safe Mode.**

A: My experience is that this is usually a hardware issue - bad CD or a bad CD/DVD drive. It's possible that bad memory can cause this, but this is a distant third choice behind the other two.

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## Microsoft Money

I don't know how many of you are using Microsoft Money, but Microsoft is killing off that product. Microsoft will officially stop sales June 30th and support will cease in 2011. Computer World has an article on this. Goto <http://www.computerworld.com> and search for Microsoft Money in their search window.

Here's a link to a Microsoft article on how to export Money data suitable to importing into Intuit Quicken:

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx/kb/178830/en-us>

The articles make it appear that Quicken from Intuit is the only commercial program for personal finance available. A quick search on Amazon.com shows Quicken and Microsoft Money and not much else except the usual tax prep software packages. But most need much more than tax preparation.

I found a couple of online personal finance options, but that means you are at the mercy of a 'free' online service that may or may not be there tomorrow and could have security issues exposing your personal finances to the world. I am not sold on the idea of cloud computing yet (if ever). And doesn't that REQUIRE a working Internet connection just to get at your data?

I think club members will be interested if anyone knows of any good alternatives besides Quicken.

Note: I did find MoneyDance. <http://www.moneydance.com> And at \$39.99 to purchase and the availability of a liberal trial license, this may be one to consider. It's compatible with many online banks. But I don't know of anyone using it. Any takers to look this package over and report back to the club?

*Contributed by Lyle Giese*

## Kingston Flash Drive Update

If you have been following flash drive ads lately, you may have noticed that Kingston G2 or Generation 2 flash drives have become available. I had the opportunity to test one of these recently. This is a report on that test.

Background: At an MC3 demo in November of 2007, it was noted that the Kingston Data Traveler flash drives had read speeds of 7.5 to 8.0 MB/sec, while certain other flash drives were four times as fast. The Kingston units had access times of 3.5 ms, about four times more (slower) than most other units. In an MC3 article in April of 2008, it was noted that faster Kingston flash drives were available for an extra cost. A unit four times as fast was available for about four times the price.

I tested a Kingston 8 gigabyte G2 unit. It had average read speeds of about 20.0 MB/sec and burst read speeds of about 21.5 MB/sec. These values are about three times faster than the Kingston units tested previously. The access speeds were about 1.25 ms. This is also a factor of three improvement and much more comparable to the other units tested previously.

I checked prices on Amazon.com in writing this article the week before the July meeting. The 8 gigabyte G2 unit cost \$17.59, more than a dollar cheaper than the corresponding DT100 model and two dollars cheaper than the corresponding Data Traveler model. Two weeks ago, the G2 model was the more expensive model at \$18.99. However, for the 16 gigabyte models, the G2 was the most expensive at \$35.65 with the others five and three dollars cheaper respectively.

Kingston clearly marks on its packaging if a unit is Vista ReadyBoost capable or not. None of these units is indicated as ReadyBoost capable. I have not confirmed this within Vista, but, based on my Windows XP testing, the G2 model should be acceptable to Vista for ReadyBoost, and the original Data Traveler unit probably would be as well.

The G2 (and the DT100) units are "capless" in that the USB connection can be retracted into the case when not in use. The original Data Traveler units do have caps and these can be attached to the "other" end of the case when the unit is in use.

The currently available Data Traveler units may have been updated from those tested previously, but I have seen no indication that has occurred. Unless such an update has occurred, there seems to be no reason to buy other than a G2 model, probably even at the 16 gigabyte capacity.

*Contributed by Jack Luff*