

McHENRY COUNTY COMPUTER CLUB

USERS GROUP FOR PC-COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS



JUNE 2009
VOLUME 26 No. 6

The **June 2009** meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is **June 13**, 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.

Meeting Agenda

09:00 General Business Meeting
09:15 Break
09:30 VHS to DVD - Adam Giese
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

Please indicate that your email is for the editor.

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

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

UPCOMING DEMOS

July Excel - Jack Luff
August Online Resources - Bob Wagner
September Anniversary Party & Extended Q&A

MC³ OFFICIALS

President : Larry Freeman lpfreeman@hotmail.com
Vice President : Bob Wagner rmwagner@ameritech.net
Secretary : Shirley Teetsov
Treasurer: Lyle Giese Lyle@lcrcomputer.com
Database Manager : Dan Weise
Newsletter Editor : Lucë York info@Mc3ComputerClub.org (for articles & suggestions ONLY)
Past President : John Katkus
Webmaster: Cindi Carrigan
Board Members : Jack Luff ; Dave Lutes ; Jim Bierle ; Bruce Eckersberg

Questions & Answers

Q: At startup, message reads "Thermal Event - Computer Restarted." When XP starts, at event Viewer nothing shows, just normal startup.

A: The Bios has detected an overheat event. You probably need to clean the computer, fans, & heat sinks. Then check for any fans that are not turning.

I would guess that the motherboard manufacturer makes a program to run within Windows to monitor temperatures also.

Q: How do I backup the email in Outlook Express 2007? How do you restore email?

A: Outlook Express usually stores email in .dbx files. They are flat file database files actually. Inside Outlook express, go to Tools, Options, Maintenance, click on Store Folder and that will display where they are stored.

Because these are database files, you replace the files with the ones from your backup, overwriting what is already there.

Q: Can I look at my email from work that is using Outlook 2003?

A: Ask your IT group. There may be a way to look at your email using webmail via your mail server.

Q: For some unknown reason, WinXP fax has developed a problem. I get a message 'All Fax printers are inaccessible'.

A: My research shows this to be a known problem with several fixes depending on how your system got into this mess. I did see a common thread mentioning that corrupt in the security database (one of three databases that makes up the registry in WinXP). I have seen this particular fix in a couple of places. Here's a link to the article:

<http://www.eggheadcafe.com/conversation.aspx?messageid=31795978&threadid=31795976>

I would highly recommend backing up the registry, if not imaging (making a ghost image), before trying this fix.

OS Elsewhere

At the retirement home a nurse sees an old man, at least 95, maybe even 100 years old. He is busy reading a Linux book! So she asks, "Why are you reading a Linux book?"

He replies, "Well, I don't have much time left in this world, and I'm sure that the computers in Heaven are running Linux. So I just want to be ready."

"But what happens if you wind up in, you know, that other place?"

"No problem. I have a Vista book too!"

Contributed by Jim Bierle

Editor's Note: The following article is a repeat, in part, of one in last month's issue due to the fact that I inadvertently did not copy half of what Jack had sent me. I apologize to Jack and to the members for my error. Lucë

Excel: Identifying Precedents and Dependents

If you have developed a relatively large spreadsheet with several formulas over a period of time, you may have lost track of the relationships between various cells and it may be necessary to understand some or all of these relationships for subsequent work. Excel calls the cell or cells that affect a particular cell as the direct "precedents" of that cell and the cell or cells that are affected by a particular cell as the direct "descendents" of that cell.

For example, if cell A6 contains the formula =SUM(A1:A5), cell A6 is the direct descendent of each of cells A1 through A5 and each of cells A1 through A5 is a direct precedent for cell A6.

A quick way to identify the precedents of a cell in a spreadsheet is:

1. Select the cell.
2. Press F5 to open the Go To dialog box.
3. Choose Special... so that the Go To Special dialog box appears.
4. Select Precedents and choose OK.

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Select the cell.
Press F5 to open the Go To dialog box.
Choose Special... so that the Go To Special dialog box appears.
Select Precedents and choose OK.

All the immediate precedents of your cell are now selected (highlighted). You can press the Tab key to move among the selected cells without deselecting them. In this way you can see if any of the direct precedents are themselves formulas that might need further investigation.

Note that in step 4 above, the sub option "Direct only" was selected for you. The alternative was "All levels" which also selects the direct precedents of any direct precedents and so forth as far up the chain as appropriate. You might use this option once you are comfortable with the Direct only choice (and probably only for sheets that are not too complicated).

The alternative in step 4 was to select Dependents with, hopefully, the obvious results. The Direct only / All levels choice is available here too. (You might find the All levels choice a little more useful here.)

The limitation of this method is that precedents or dependents that are on another worksheet are NOT selected or identified by this method.

Contributed by Jack Luff

Excel: Formula Review Mode

If you have created a formula in Excel that doesn't seem to be doing quite what you want, one review step is to check each cell referenced in the formula to ensure it is correct and contains a value you expect. You could do so manually, but activating Excel's "formula review mode" allows Excel to do this for you.

With the cursor on the cell with the formula, press Ctrl and the left square bracket key, "[". (This is the key to the right of "p" on my keyboard.) The result is that each cell in the formula is highlighted and the cursor is positioned in the first of the cells referenced in the formula. Pressing "Enter" takes you to the second cell referenced and so forth. Pressing "Enter" on the last cell takes you back to the first cell and "Shift" + "Enter" takes you to the prior cell.

This wouldn't be that useful for a simple formula like =SUM(A1:B6), but would be a significant time saver for a formula that references different parts of a spreadsheet; e.g.,

=(A10+ AA10+AB10+AC10)/(A20+AA20+AB20+AC20).

(Such a formula might be used to calculate an overall yearly rate, with +A10/A20 being the first quarter rate and so forth.)

Unfortunately, this mode does not work for formulas that reference cells on more than one sheet.

Contributed by Jack Luff

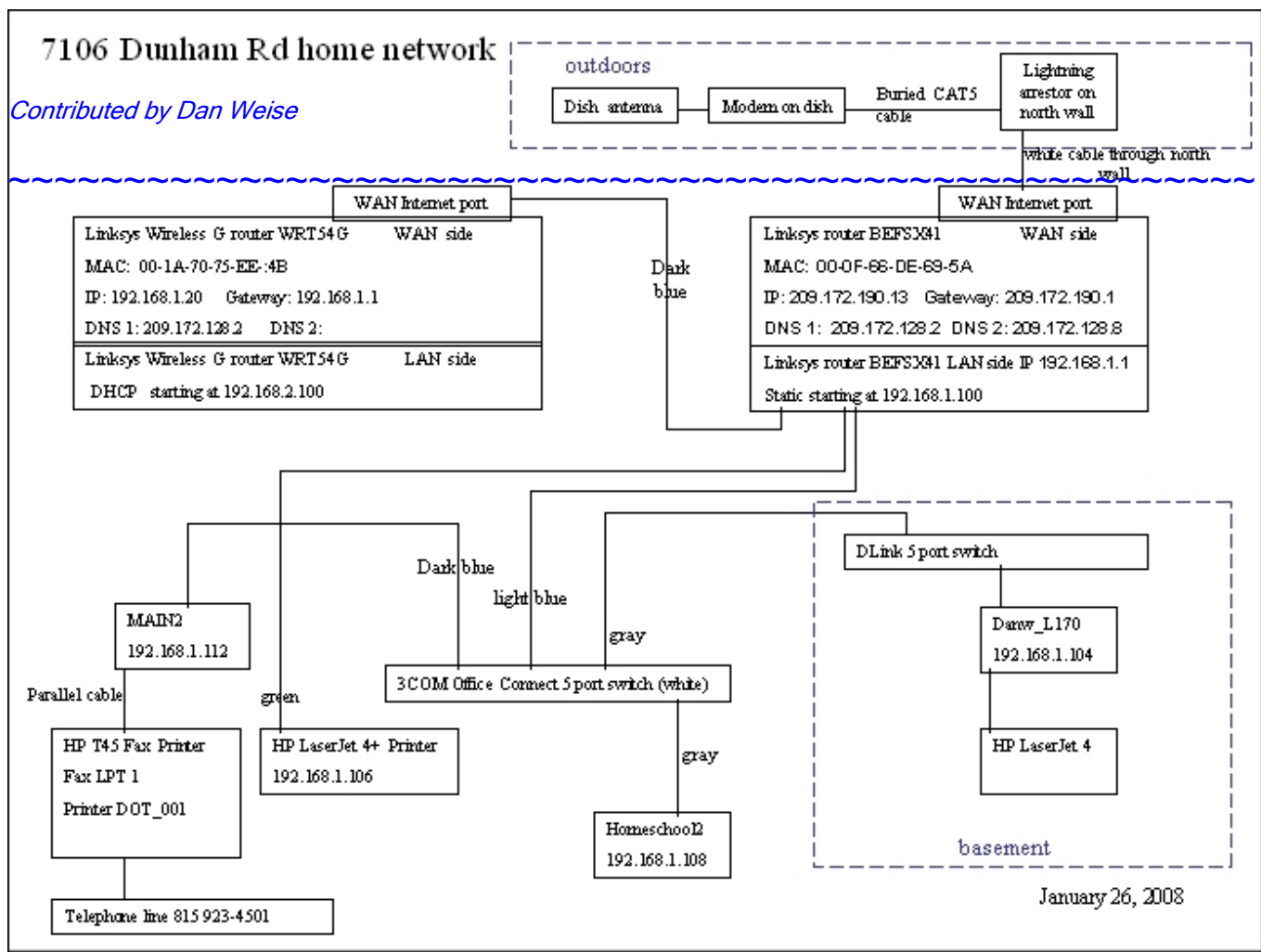
It's 11 PM. Do You Know Where Your PCs Are?

Saturday morning, I got up and I had no internet service. The ISP had no outages and they could 'see' my antenna and modem, meaning it was on my end.

My network sort of grew over the years and the area between the computer desk and the printer cabinet was a rat's nest of cables and power strips.

And other than the fact that it worked the evening before, I was stuck. PC's couldn't ping one another. I couldn't print to my Laserjet 4+. I complain when my customers don't have documented systems, and here I was with just a rat's nest of cabling.

So, I bit the bullet and made a diagram of my home network. I used Power Point because it makes boxes and lines and text boxes.



So now I know what is where and who is who.

Cleaning Up the Rat's Nest

I bought 3 outlet strips and used two of them for UPS battery-backed devices, and the other one for ordinary AC wall powered stuff. I wall mounted them on the computer desk:



Then I had to Google "wall mount Linksys" in order to find out how to wall mount the routers. I found a Youtube video showing how the plastic feet come apart. It turns out that the case's hard plastic feet have a soft plastic insert with a hole centered in the bottom. All you do is pry out the soft plastic insert, screw mount the insert to the wall, and then press the router case back onto the soft plastic inserts. Really nifty.



With the outlet strips, routers, and switch all wall mounted, the rat's nest started cleaning up a bit.

Contributed by Dan Weise