

McHENRY COUNTY COMPUTER CLUB

USERS GROUP FOR PC-COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS



MAY 2010
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The May 2010 meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is May 8, at the Salvation Army Building, 290 W. Crystal Lake Ave., in Crystal Lake.

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

- Introductions & Reports
- Demo - Clonezilla - Lyle Giese
- Q&A

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

Editor-in-Chief: Lucë York ; Webmaster: Cindi Carrigan

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

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

UPCOMING DEMOS

- *May* Clonezilla - Lyle Giese
- *June* Flying 'Copter - John Katkus ; possible laser printer demo by Dick Hoppe

MC³ OFFICIALS

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Webmaster: Cindi Carrigan
Board Members : Jack Luff ; Dave Lutes ; Jim Bierle ; Bruce Eckersberg

Questions & Answers

Q: Error loading c:\Program Files\commonfiles\paretologic\uss.dll

A: When the ParetoLogic data recovery software was un-installed, the un-installer doesn't remove the schedule task associated with the program.

Go to Control Panel, Schedule Tasks, highlight ParetoLogic Registration and delete it.

Q: Windows comes up with Photo gallery that crashes and asks for the photogallery.msi and cannot find it.

A: The official answer from Microsoft is to re-install and then remove. If that does not work get the Windows Installer Cleanup Utility to finish the un-install: <http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=290301>

Q: I have a 1TB SATA hard drive. It works fine with WinXP. Will it work with Win2000 with an 80GB hard drive?

A: Win2000 was made before SATA drives. You will need to make sure you have Win2000 drivers for the SATA controller. If you have suitable drivers, you would install Win2000 on the 80GB drive and then add the 1TB drive later.

Q: How do you adjust the allotted space for system restore points in Win7?

A: The official Microsoft answer is you can't.

To store restore points, you need at least 300 megabytes (MB) of free space on each hard disk that has System Protection turned on. System Restore might use up to 15 percent of the space on each disk. As the amount of space fills up with restore points, System Restore will delete older restore points to make room for new ones.

Microsoft also states if your drive is running low on space, Windows will delete restore points on its own. It will also automatically delete restore points older than 90 days.

Q: What are the steps to save a webpage on screen to a DVD?

A: You need to figure out how to cut and paste the info you want to keep into Word or Open Office and then save that document. Once that is saved, it's a normal file to save out to any device you want, including DVD, CD, Flash drive, etc.

Q: System Low Battery voltage press F1 to continue or F2 to fix.

A: If this happens on a laptop, it usually means you are running on battery and the battery is running out of power. If you think it's plugged in, make sure the outlet is hot (and not turned off or the breaker tripped or half is on a wall switch, etc) or the plug is not all the way in at the wall, the power supply or on the back of the computer.

On a desktop computer, it usually means you are using a UPS with monitoring software and the batteries in it are running down or going bad. A UPS battery is not much different from a car battery and does get weaker with time and does need to be replaced. How long will it last? Depends. It can vary, but after 2-3 years it can go any time.

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Freeware

by Al Schrader

PIM stands for Personal Information Manager, which covers a large range of software to do many different things, such as (and this is what I use one for) a reminder. No, I cannot remember everything, but there are things I do need to remember - like my anniversary or my kids, wife, or

relatives birthdays; I generally do pretty good but there is always that one time... Anyway, there are hundreds of software titles that do more or less the same thing. They start up when the computer boots up and then at some pre-determined time or day an alarm sounds or a pop up displays what event is about to happen. The one I use - M-Minder - is an old version That is still available (but hard to find but still works in Windows 7) at <http://www.linux-howto.com/preview/427934> which is version 2.0 and includes one difference than all the rest. When the computer boots up, it displays a screen containing pre-determined events for that day and then you end the program, it stops, releases any memory it uses, and you do not see it again until the computer boots up again. I really dislike software that keeps running in the background once you end it. These are called TSR - Terminate and Stay Resident - a holdover from the DOS days (it's like leaving your car running in your driveway and waiting for you to use it some time in the future) using up ram memory. This may seem petty, but if you add this one and others, it can slow down your computer. The newer version of M-Minder works like all the others and stays running in the background, allowing it to pop up at a pre-determined time of day if that's what is required. I use this every day and I am giving this one a thumbs up recommendation.

Should I Hate Vista?

Some friends of mine called one night and asked for help with their Compaq Presario computer with Vista Home Premium Operating System (OS). They could not get on the internet via Firefox or by Internet Explorer. They already talked with their local DLS internet provider and they were not able to fix the problem over the phone and offered to fix the PC for minimum of \$190.00. So they checked with Office Depot (where the computer was purchased 2 to 3 years prior) and they were told that it would be a free to scan but minimum of \$150.00 to fix the problem. She also told me that the PC did not come with the original factory windows discs. I said that I will see what I can do, but I could not promise that I could fix the current OS. Worst case scenario would be to reinstall OS if the disc is available and start fresh.

I received the PC and took a quick look at it. The PC desktop was cluttered with shortcuts to all kinds of programs and files, including multiple virus softwares and a 'pier to pier' file sharing program. I brought up task manager, and there was a very long list of processes going on in the background. Even when the PC should have been idle, the hard drive (HD) would cycle once a second nonstop - even an hour later with nobody using the PC. I tried to access the internet but with no luck. I then checked the local area connection and it showed not having any connection problems.

The next day I checked the programs and found that the Norton security suite had expired and was not getting updates, and the firewall was off. It also had MacAfee scan software and AVG free virus protection running. There was no active firewall on at all. I removed the old Norton Security Suite and MacAfee Scan, but still the internet was not available. No matter what I tried I could not get to the internet with the browser software. I downloaded Malware remover from my PC on to a thumb drive and installed it on the troubled PC. It was able to remove over 200 malicious items and one Trojan, but still no internet. Then I tried Spyware Doctor, but it wanted to go on the internet to get updates. That failed, as did the Spybot Search and Destroy. Maybe there is a way around that, but I could not find one.

On further examination, I did find a Factory Image on a separate partition of the HD. I recommended that my friend get a new HD and install the factory image on it, so that the old HD can be saved with all the documents and files intact - just in case. My friend agreed to a new HD approach.

Early morning on the third day, I started to work on the computer. Using my HD to USB adapter, I hooked the new HD to the PC. Downloaded Seagate Disc Wizard (a version of Acronics True Image - free) from my PC onto a thumb drive, and installed it on my friend's PC into the Windows environment. I followed the directions on the screen for making an image transfer from old to new PC and it started the transfer. About ½ hour into the transfer, the computer just shut off. On the restart the new HD was not found in the Windows. I can physically see the drive, but not in Windows. I made a boot-up disc, and with that Disc wizard started up in DOS, and I was able to reformat the new HD. Then I restarted the image transfer in DOS, and this time it did transfer the image in about 45 minutes to a new HD.

Then I started the PC recovery from the Factory Image, and it reinstalled the Win Vista - finally, I'm getting somewhere. Around noon, I was able to go on to the internet and start downloading updates - there were over 100 Win Vista updates! Most of the updates were critical ones, so I just started to download all of them. One of the biggest updates I was trying to install was SP1 - it is a must have on a PC before April 13th 2010 or there is no more support from MS, and Zone Alarm will not install without it. The PC kept failing to take SP1. The computer was shut down and restarted multiple times for upgrades to install. Late that night, it was still doing updates. I called it quits for the night and went to bed. The next morning, to my surprise, SP1 was installed and running - Finally!!

On fourth day, I downloaded Firefox and AVG Free and got them running, and turned on Win firewall (for now). I asked my friend for the data needed to transfer, and it got transferred from the old HD to an External HD. When the old HD was running in the PC for data transfer to the external HD, the PC sudden just blanked out. I did a manual shutdown (held the power button for 10 seconds) and on startup the PC wanted to fix windows from an improper shutdown, so I let it, but no luck. I tried to start in normal and safe modes but nothing - the old HD crashed! I am glad that I recommended buying a new HD; I just hope that all the needed data was transferred. I reinstalled the new HD and restarted Windows - everything was running good. Using the Seagate Disc Wizard, I created an image of the new HD to my external HD.

Next a window popped up for making a recovery disk to back up the OS, with a onetime chance to do it - it's nice that it was built into the factory image. I took advantage of this and went for it. The PC started the process and told me that it would take 12 CD's, 3 DVD's or 2 Dual Layer DVD's - DVD's it is. It took about 30 minutes for it to set up before it started to burn the disc. I used a blank TDK DVD and the first one was fine. It asked for the second DVD and few seconds later it spit it out saying that it was bad disc, so I tried 2 more TDK DVD's (I just picked up a 100 pack!) but no luck, so now I was hunting for some other brand. I had some Fuji DVDs and inserted one in the drive. Next the PC just shut down! I restarted the PC and to my surprise it just picked up from where it left off and finished the second and third DVD. Again it was late and I just surfed the net for an hour and everything was going good. I am glad that it all worked out, especially since I recommended a new HD; however, that was a lot of work and a lot of time spent with updates!

This was a difficult task; however I just cannot blame it all on Vista at this time.

Lem Erita

Editor's note: Lem deserves a medal - and then some - for his work on that machine. And he deserves a high five for this wonderful article. Thanks, Lem!