

McHenry County Computer Club

USERS GROUP FOR PC-COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS



MAY 2008
VOLUME 25 No. 5

The **May 2008** meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is **May 10**, 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: Thumb Drives
10:00 Break
10:15 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

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

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

UPCOMING DEMOS

In order to provide interesting and relevant demonstrations for our members, I will once again present a survey so that members have another opportunity to provide their input for subjects of future demonstrations. Please try to think of some subject of interest to you so that you can contribute to this survey.

The Board would like to keep an up-to-date record of members' email. It helps to keep you informed of when the newsletter is online and of possible last-minute change of venue for our meetings. **Please email the club - info@Mc3ComputerClub.org - your current email address.** Thank you. Guess who gets to ask you if you don't. ;-)

MC³ OFFICIALS

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Al Davidson ; Dan Weise

The editor wishes to thank all of the contributors to the May issue: Jack Luff, Jim Bierle, Bob Wagner, Lyle Giese.. [Lucë](#)

Cause and Effect

A guy walks into the Doctor's office and says, "Doc every time I lift my left arm it hurts." The Doc replies, "Stop lifting your arm!"

That old joke applies to this computer story.

Periodically my Vista-equipped HP Pavilion laptop forgets about my printer. During the boot cycle, the laptop (re) discovers that my HP PSC 1610 three in one printer is connected to the laptop via a USB, and dutifully downloads the printer drivers. While not extremely painful it is a bother. The only way (that I know) to stop it was to completely remove the printer and uninstall all of the supporting software then reinstall again. After downloading all of HP's latest drivers and updates, it still happens. Again periodically, maybe every two to three weeks, the problem would reappear.

Then one day while explaining the problem to a Florida friend, it dawns on me, that yesterday I ran a freeware program, Glary Utilities. Glary Utilities is a cleanup program that I downloaded on the recommendation of PC World. The utility finds and fixes all sorts of errors, registry problems, spyware, etc....

I suspect that it also messes (for lack of a better description) my HP print drivers.

The punch line: "When I run Glary Utilities, it screws up HP printer software. Then don't run the Glary utility program."

[contributed by Jim Beierle](#)

Vista CDs Sometimes Incompatible

If you send photographs on a CD to a friend or relative, it is just possible that he/she may be unable to view them. One reason this may happen is that those CDs were created in Windows Vista. Even if you finished the disc and a message pops up saying something like, "Please wait while Vista formats this disc to be read on all computers," you may have a problem.

Computers can read CDs so long as they have a CD or DVD drive. And you're presumably using a common format like JPEG. Thus you shouldn't have trouble exchanging CDs between machines. In reality, Microsoft has thrown a curve. Vista introduced a new format for writing discs—Live File System. Those CDs aren't necessarily compatible with all computers. CDs created by Windows XP use the Mastered format. That format requires you to finalize the disc after it is burned. So, it must be completed in one session. Rewritable discs can be written to again, but must be erased first.

By default, Vista uses the Live File System. With this format, you can write files to the CD whenever you want. You can also erase files whenever you want (provided you're using a rewritable CD). A rewritable CD can be used like a floppy disc or USB drive.

When you make a disc for Vista, just use Live File System. But when the disc will be used on other machines, use the Mastered format. You shouldn't run into too many problems with this format.

To select the Mastered format, insert a blank CD in your computer. Click "Burn files to disc" in the box that opens. Enter a name for the disc and click "Show formatting options." Select Mastered and click Next. Your CD will be formatted. You can then add files and finalize the disc.

You don't have to use Windows' burning programs. There are many other programs available, such as BurnAware, CDBurnerXP and DeepBurner.

contributed by Jim Beierle

Jim also says: We all get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our heads. So, I'm not fat; I'm just really intelligent, and my head couldn't hold more, so it started filling up the rest of me.

An Eye-Opener

Trying to find something funny in the absurdity of it allThe price of Gas versus Printer Ink

All these examples do NOT imply that gasoline is cheap; it just illustrates how outrageous some prices are.... You will be really shocked by the last one! (At least, I was...)

Compared with Gasoline..... Think a gallon of gas is expensive? This makes one think, and also puts things in perspective to other things we buy.

Diet Snapple 16 oz \$1.29 ... \$10.32 per gallon
Lipton Ice Tea 16 oz \$1.19\$9.52 per gallon

Gatorade 20 oz \$1.59 \$10.17 per gallon

Ocean Spray 16 oz \$1.25 \$10.00 per gallon

Brake Fluid 12 oz \$3.15 \$33.60 per gallon
Vick's Nyquil 6 oz \$8.35 \$178.13 per gallon
Pepto Bismol 4 oz \$3.85 \$123.20 per gallon

Whiteout 7 oz \$1.39 \$25.42 per gallon
Scope 1.5 oz \$0.99 \$84.48 per gallon

And this is the REAL KICKER:

Evian water 9 oz \$1.49 \$21.19 per gallon! \$21.19 for WATER, and the buyers don't even know the source. (Evian spelled backwards is Naive.)

Ever wonder why printers are so cheap? So they have you hooked for the ink. Someone calculated the cost of the ink at. \$5,200 a gallon (Yup, that's true).

So, the next time you're at the pump, be glad your car doesn't run on water, Scope, or Whiteout, Pepto Bismol, Nyquil or - God forbid - Printer Ink!

Just a little humor to help ease the pain of your next trip to the pump.

And - If you don't pass this along to at least one person, your muffler will fall off!!

Contributed by Bob

Wagner

Questions & Answers

Q: When forwarding an email with pictures, the text is ok but pictures show up as a box with a small red x in the corner.

A: That means the picture was not included in your reply and the red x is a symbol of a broken link to the picture. Check your email program's forwarding options.

Q: My Firefox disconnect from my computer after a few minutes of Firefox being on. I have SBC/Yahoo and no problem with the yahoo browser.

A: Your Internet connection is set up to disconnect after a certain period of no activity. Firefox is not being as chatty as the yahoo browser and the connection is shutting down. This could be power management on the computer's network card (I am assuming DSL) or your router is not set to keep the connection on all the time or the timeout value is too low and the computer drops the connection, if you are optioned for PPPoE on the computer.

Q: How do you turn off Vista Auto update feature, so it does not restart in the middle of a program?

A: Set auto-update to download and notify you of updates instead of automatically installing them. Go to the Control Panel (I always reset mine to Classic view). Open Windows update and then on the left is an option for 'Change Settings'.

Q: ZoneAlarm did a system checkup on my computer and noted several items are showing up in Warning status.

A: Any 'good' anti-malware scanner will find new things to warn you about. Some serious, some not serious. You really need to look at each item and decide for your self. It's hard to read the screen print. But some may be a matter of just emptying the cache for Internet Explorer. Or making sure you have all the latest Windows patches/updates for your computer.

Q: Is there an advantage over External powered USB hub vs. non-powered hub?

A: YES! The non-powered hubs pull power off the USB port they are plugged into on the computer. Each USB device you plug into the non-powered hub tries to pull power for itself from the hub. The amount of power that the computer's USB port can supply is limited and when you try to pull too much power, your USB devices will start to misbehave in strange and mysterious ways. I always recommend using Ext. powered USB hubs!

Q: Is there a way to set IE7 to not block websites?

A: It depends on how and why it's blocking a particular site. Under Tools, there is a section for POP UP Blockers. Sometimes, you need to unblock pop ups for your bank for instance. Also AV

products with malware/phishing filters will block sites and some toolbars will block sites. So you have to take some time to determine what and why something is blocked before finding a working answer to this question.

Q: The problem last month with XPAntivirus 2008 trojan. A week after the meeting AVG came out with a fix.

A: Many times XPAntivirus 2008 or other trojans will block or severely hinder web surfing and render your computer useless and unable to download specific fixes. Also how do you know that this did not cause harm to others on the Internet by sending out spam or other bad activity? Waiting a week hoping for a fix is not always a good answer.

Q: My (I presume DSL) modem won't let me on the Internet. AT&T said it was a bad password, but still it does not work.

A: Sometimes the DSL modems or routers will get confused and you need to do a hard reset to clear all settings and rebuild the settings on them. I have seen this with Linksys routers on occasion. Not very often, but it does happen.

The exact procedure varies depending on the make & model of DSL modem/router, but it doesn't hurt to try that.

Q: Every time we have a power failure, there is a precise procedure I need to do to get my wireless & AT&T DSL back online.

A: Yep! Turn off the wireless router/access point. Turn off the DSL modem. Turn on the DSL modem. Wait until the lights stop blinking and the DSL light is on steady. Power up the wireless router/access Point. Now restart your computer and you should be all set to go.

The only way to prevent this is to get a UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) that can supply power to these two units for an hour or two. You would probably need a 1500va unit that costs around \$500 or so. Not too many power outages last for less than 30 minutes.

Four Default Excel Settings You Might Want To Change

Personalized Menus: By default, Excel (and most other Office programs) show only a limited set of commands when you click on one of the Menu choices at the top of the screen. This works if you use only a limited set of functions. It also is reasonable if you have a low resolution screen. However, most people prefer seeing the full set of commands, if only to remind them of what is available.

This setting is under Tools - Customize and the setting is the obvious "Always show full menus". Note if want to use Personalized Menus, you have the choice to "Show full menus after a short delay". (I can't remember if this is the default or not.)

Cursor Movement: When you press "Enter" after keying something into a cell, by default the cursor moves to the next lower cell. You can override this by using the cursor keys - cursor right moves to the cell on the right, etc. Of course, cursor down moves the cursor to the next lower cell, the same as the default "Enter" behavior.

Frequently, after entering something into a cell, you may want to take further action on that cell, such as applying a format. With the default behavior, you have to move the cursor back to that cell. You can change the default behavior under Tools - Options - Edit and unselect "Move selection after Enter".

Note that, if you leave “Move selection” chosen, you can set the direction of cursor movement in any direction by resetting the “Direction:” choice. Also, you can override cursor movement by pressing Ctrl+Enter - this leaves the cursor in the cell regardless of the other settings.

Number of Sheets: By default, Excel opens a blank workbook with three blank worksheets. It is very seldom that you need exactly three worksheets and an alternative is to start with one sheet and add others as needed. The number of blank sheets is set in “Sheets in new workbook:” under Tools - Options - General.

To add a new blank worksheet, you have a number of choices, as is usually the case in Excel. Insert - Worksheet inserts a blank worksheet before the current worksheet. Right clicking on a worksheet tab brings up a dialogue box that allows you to do the same thing. Shift+F11 does the same thing in one step.

Recently Used Files: When you start Excel, by default, the four most recently accessed files are listed at the bottom of the File menu. You can change the number of files listed, up to nine (or down to zero), under Tools - Options - General. If you work with half a dozen or so files at a time, increasing this setting might be a good idea.

contributed by Jack Luff