

# McHenry County Computer Club

*Users Group for PC-Compatible Systems*



*November 2009*  
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The **November 2009** meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is **November 14**, 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 - Excel Pivot Tables - Jack Luff
- 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.

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

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

- *November*      Excel: Pivot Tables - Jack Luff
- *December*    Google Docs - Jim Bierle
- *January*        Extended Q&A
- *February*      Mail Merge - Bob Wagner
- *March*          Spring Party

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

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

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## Questions & Answers

**Q: Linksys router problem. Occasionally loses connection between CPU & Internet. Can usually get it back online if you have an IP and log into renew IP from modem.**

A: I have seen lots of Linksys routers. Two of the most frequent problems with them is 1) heat, 2) dirty power.

Do not stack anything on top of a Linksys router nor set it on something that generates heat. Linksys routers can over heat easily and malfunction. Linksys routers are finicky about power. It does not take much of a power glitch to lock up a Linksys router. If you have unstable or dirty power, you may need to put the Linksys on a UPS to provide clean power.

One other thing I thought of after the meeting is that with DSL, you must put the DSL modem in transparent mode and have the Linksys router do the PPPoE authentication. I have seen where the DSL modem had the authentication and the Linksys was in DHCP client mode and it was unstable. The Linksys could not see when the DSL modem had dropped and came back online in this mode.

**Q: I have some old scanned documents in .MAX files. How do I view them?**

A: Download Paper Port Viewer from: <http://www.scansoft.com/paperport/viewers/>

**Q: Is there software that will display caller ID/Call waiting phone info on your computer monitor?**

A: There are several if you google for 'caller id software'. Identafone is one of the older packages and has been around a while.

I am assuming you are talking about caller id on a line from AT&T coming in on a regular copper cable pair (what us phone guys would call a POTS (Plain Old Telephone Service) line). With the software, you also need a voice modem that can recognize the caller id tones sent between the 1st and 2nd rings.

**Q: Does anyone know about hacking or programming cell phones?**

A: Hacking cell phones usually infers unlocking them. Most cell phones you get are locked into the cell phone carrier when you buy them in their firmware.

Unlocking a cell phone is done at your own risk and can cause your phone to become a brick. iPhones are locked to AT&T's network, and Apple has been known to send out updates to the phones that will lock them up if you have unlocked them.

**Q: If I allow all the windows vista updates that Microsoft wants to send, will I wind up with ad-ware or a slower PC?**

A: Most updates are not of the ad-ware variety. Some can cause minor slowdowns to your PC however.

Windows desktop search engine is one that can slow down your computer while it is cataloging your files.

**Q: Can I successfully set the video resolution to one resolution for the internal laptop monitor and a different resolution for an external monitor?**

A: That would be highly dependant on the video driver. And may be a limitation how Windows stores the resolutions in the registry.



The following "laws" have appeared in our newsletter before, though it has been many years ago. Nevertheless, it presents truths that may only seem tongue-in-cheek. I remember the points made often, when I work on computers, though it seems more accurate to me while I am at work. Have you ever noticed that the people who write programs often have no idea what it is like for those of us who have to use those same programs? Note: anything in *italic* below has been added by the editor.

### Murphy's Laws of Computers

When computing, whatever happens, behave as though you meant it to happen.

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.

The first place to look for information is in the section of the manual where you least expect to find it.

When the going gets tough, upgrade.

For every action, there is an equal and opposite malfunction.

To err is human - to blame your computer for your mistakes is even more human: it is downright natural,

He who laughs last probably made a backup.

If at first you do not succeed, blame your computer (*or the ones who wrote the program*).

A complex system that does not work is invariably found to have evolved from a simpler system that worked just fine (*e.g., Windows versions*).

The number one cause of computer problems is computer solutions (*remember all the Windows updates for previous updates?*).

A computer program will always (*usually*) do what you tell it to do, but rarely what *you think* you want to do.



Remember - you, too, can be a contributor to our newsletter. Send your articles, notes, stories to the editor at [info@Mc3ComputerClub.org](mailto:info@Mc3ComputerClub.org) Put "newsletter" in the subject line.