

McHENRY COUNTY COMPUTER CLUB

USERS GROUP FOR PC-COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS



SEPTEMBER 2009
VOLUME 26 No. 9

The [September 2009](#) meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is [September 12](#), 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

- Introductions & Reports
- Demo - Speeding Up an Old PC, by Jim Bierle
- Extended Q&A
- Anniversary Party

PLEASE BRING YOUR CAMERAS SO YOU CAN TAKE PICTURES THAT MAY BE SUBMITTED FOR INCLUSION ON OUR WEBSITE.

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

- *September* Speeding Up an Old PC; Extended Q&A; Anniversary Party
- *October* Excel Pivot Tables - Jack Luff
- *November* Selected Mail Merge - Bob Wagner
- *December* Google Docs - Jim Bierle
- *January* Extended Q&A - Holiday Party

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

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. I need to copy family home movies, video on DVD. The DVD files can be copied to a hard drive. Nero 6.0 cannot copy the files to DVD. A shareware program attempts to copy, but tails. Either HD -> DVD or DVD -> DVD. How do people copy non-copy protected video DVDs?

A. A suggestion was to take the original DVD to the place on Crystal Lake Ave, just east of the tracks and maybe they can get the videos copied to other DVD media.

Q. Is there a GOOD "White Pages" phone directory?

A. No one had anything about "white pages," only Dex and Yahoo phone information.

Q. Should I download IE8? Any known problems?

A. No one had anything specific about it, but I did install it and it sometimes sucks up all my CPU, but only for a second or two. It takes some getting used to and one can turn on and off some of the features to see if they are useful or not.

Q. With Firefox, I repeatedly get a message re a "script" something or other. It asks if I want to continue or cancel. What is this all about?

A. The website is trying to run a script (which is a small program of some sort, usually Java based) and it has a problem. Cancel is the right answer.

Q. Do SATA disk drives still use pin or cable select?

A. No. One device per port with SATA.

Q. Windows update for XP Pro - do not want to see IE8 - how is this turned off?

A. When you do the update, use the custom option. When you see the list of updates and IE8 is listed, remove the check and when asked whether you want to see this update in the future, answer no.

Q. Is there a good defragger for Windows XP Pro?

A. Use the built in one. That was the consensus of opinion at the meeting.

Q. Where can I buy a new PC with XP?

A. Some on-line stores still offer XP as an option for new PCs. You need to check around, but you can also buy a system with Vista now and get the free update to Windows 7, which should be out later this year.

Q. Should I wait for Windows 7? How is it supposed to be better?

A. If you get a good deal on a Vista system with the free upgrade to 7, go for it. What the differences are at this time I do not know, but I have seen it run and it does a better job at start-up and running on dual core systems.

Q. How do I put 4 monitors on one system?

A. If you don't have the number of built in ports, you need to get video cards for your system that have multiple (2) ports. If you get 2 of the same card you should be able to get the 4 monitor's working. No one in the group has seen this many monitors on a single system, so we were not much help.

Q. How do I get to safe mode in XP? F8 does not work.

A. Hold the left Ctrl key down before the initial XP splash screen. F8 has only a 2 second window between the end of the BIOS post test (testing memory) and before the XP splash screen starts.

Here is a follow-up to the July problem with PowerDVD application - PowerDVD was partially installed, which was the problem. It was completely un-insulated, system rebooted and reinstalled and now the password is being accepted by the system.

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*Jim Bierle has sent us this useful information:*

National Do Not Call Registry  
<https://www.donotcall.gov/>

"The National Do Not Call Registry gives you a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls at home. Most telemarketers should not call your number once it has been on the registry for 31 days. If they do, you can file a complaint at this Website. You can register your home or mobile phone for free."

*and...*

Google Chrome

I have a problem with the browser Google Chrome. When printing directly from Chrome the font is quite small, and I can't find a way to adjust then font size as I can with Firefox. I haven't found a satisfactory solution via Google.

*Bob Wagner follows up with this:*

I updated, may have been a dumb idea, to IE 8. It is very interesting to say the least. Seems to suck up CPU cycles for no apparent reason. My little widgit that keeps track of what is happening with the CPU, etc., shows the CPU getting pegged at 100% for no apparent reason. When that happens, everything stops on the system till CPU goes back to the normal range of about 20-30%. Makes scrolling through email and web pages a little frustrating.

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Jim suggested a "rant" column for the newsletter. I think it is a good idea. Anyone one who has a complaint or some kind of frustration with computer hardware or software is welcome to vent in the newsletter. Just send your info to me at [info@Mc3ComputerClub.org](mailto:info@Mc3ComputerClub.org) and put RANT in the subject box. *Lucë, Editor*