

QCMUG Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2008
Norm Kelinson Room- Bettendorf Public Library

Attendance: There were 18 members and no guests present. Members: Dean Arney, Sue Berger, Tom Brooks, Bill Burns, Keith Claussen, Robert Custer, Brian Dobbins, Jim Hall, Jim Holifield, David Neese, Brett Neese, David Ochs, Arnold Olson, Don Patridge, Don Shaefer. Kathy Schroeder. Jerry VanLoon, Cynthia Weinberger

Business Meeting:

- The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1246.37.
- The program for next month will be an open forum. Members are to bring in a favorite tech gadget, software, or website that they can't live without and talk about it with the group.
- Problems with the new Mac Mobile Me were mentioned.
- The online forum doesn't seem to getting much use.

July Progam

Setting up a Wireless Home Network presented by Brian Dobbins

Brian gave an informative overview of types of home networks and the advantages and disadvantages of each. The phone line networks don't seem to be as reliable and are not as common. They are also susceptible to lightning. The power line network is high speed. With this type of network, any place you can have power, you can have the capability Internet. There is no one in the area providing this service. Most business or homes run a combination of ethernet and wireless.

There are four types of Networks

- Wireless
- Ethernet
- Power line
- Phone line (both of the last two use existing wiring, but are still expensive)

Wireless

- Most flexible
- needs wireless card adapter
- Least expensive

Ethernet

- Fastest
- Each device needs an Ethernet port
- Needs a router or switch

How to Configure a Router (demonstration on overhead screen)

- You can use auto set up
- In manual set up you have 11 channels. The most common are 1, 6, 11. There is a free utility called AP Grapher to find out signal strength, signal noise, and interference.

There was a great deal of discussion during this program. Brain showed several examples of what networks would look like and routers. There was also discussion about printers. The type of wall can affect wireless signals. Signals will go through a lath, while a wire wall with wire mesh can cause problems.

There is no secure wireless configuration. You can set up a firewall that will limit access ports. It stops someone from sniffing on your network. An https location on the internet should give you a secure connection. Make sure you use a password on your network. You CAN network a PC and a Mac.

Open Forum:

Q. Does anyone know of a free people search?

A. The best suggestion was to use an online phone book if you know the city you are searching.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 19.

Respectfully submitted Kathy Schroeder, QCMug secretary