



Email: helpdesk@tbyd.ca
Phone: 204-800-3165

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TECH TIPS

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10 Geeky Back-To-School Must-Haves

I know, it's only August. However geeks (even closet geeks) must start their accessorizing now!

Just a few of them:

1. What sound does a geek make while eating lunch...this "food transportation device" says it all! This one is for my daughter!



2. Don't like your homework?? Use the 'Delete' eraser button! Sorry, no mute button to use for teachers that rattle on...



3. The 9.7" "notepad" is great for doodling during those looong classes. For use only with not-pencils, not-pens, and the delete button (above).



4. Only the older geeks will remember the original model for the floppy sticky notes!

For more geek-cessories, click:
[HERE](#)

Photos courtesy of mashable.com.

An Important Notice To Technology By Design Clients:

The Government of Manitoba, following the electronics recycling programs in other provinces, also launched its own waste electronic equipment recycling program through the Electronic Products Recycling Association - Manitoba (EPRA Manitoba).

Effective August 1, 2012, the electronic products fee program is funded by an Environmental Handling Fee (EHF) ranging from \$0.40 to \$23.25 on the purchase of computer accessories and new TVs in Manitoba.

What does this mean for you? This means that any computer equipment purchased in Manitoba after July 31, 2012, you will see an additional charge on your invoice for the EHF.

For information about the fees are, click: [HERE](#)

TechTips Expands To Four Pages!

TechTips had it's auspicious beginning in June 2011, as a fun and informative way to keep in touch with our clients and potential clients. It was so popular, and the requests for more stories were so great, that in January 2012 we expanded it to 2 pages!

Bursting at the seams with stories, information, business features, trivia questions, and computer specials, TechTips has now expanded to 4 Pages!

TechTips is now emailed to over 2000 businesses, and paper copies are distributed to coffee shops and yet more businesses throughout Manitoba! TechTips has also been seen by businesses in the U.S., Guatemala, Costa Rica, Mexico, Germany, and the U.K.!

For past issues of TechTips, click: [HERE](#)

You can also check out our website: tbyd.ca, blog: tbyd.ca/blog, visit us on Facebook: [facebook.com/TechnologybyDesign](https://www.facebook.com/TechnologybyDesign), or follow us on Twitter: [@Twitter.com/@techbyd](https://twitter.com/@techbyd)

Let us know what you think! Email marketing@tbyd.ca.

"640K ought to be enough for anybody."

— Bill Gates, 1981.



Would you have invested?



Microsoft Corporation, 1978

Yet Another Shocking Survey...

With back-to-school fast approaching (I will pause to allow for cheering from parents, and grunts/groans from kids), also comes back-to-school shopping! With this in mind, Newegg, an online store, commissioned a study to determine which technological devices college students are more interested in, and therefore more likely to buy.

The not-so-shocking results: laptops and big-screen TVs are high on their lists. Another not-so-shocking survey result: students tend to go on instinct and/or impulse when purchasing these items, which ends up with a large number of these students end up unsatisfied with their purchase.

Wakefield Research found that 1 in 3 students own an item purchased for them by a parent that they don't use or like. 36% of these students stated that item is a laptop.

When asked about tablet PCs, 1 in 4 student stated that a tablet would help to improve grades. 61% of these students said they would use the tablet for research projects, while 60% stated they would use the tablet to read textbooks.

No indication as to how many would actually use the tablet to play WOW.

I could have saved the online store a lot of money, and had them follow around my university-bound daughter for a week. They would have found out a lot more useful information!

Canada's Ultimate Beer...Made in the U.S.

What could say "Canadian" better than bacon, maple, and beer? How about bacon, maple and beer all mixed together.

The Bacon Maple Ale, is the product of a joint effort between Rogue brewers, and Portland's legendary Voodoo Doughnut. Housed in a Pepto-Bismal pink bottle, it's approximately \$13/bottle, or if you want to attempt a case of the bacon-y 'goodness', you'll be shelling out \$156 for a case.

This beer is only available through the mail, and select Oregonian locations. However, that may be a good thing. By all accounts, it's not as good as it sounds. In fact, several reviews liken it to drinking a dirty, ashy smoked beer, along with fatty hits of unwanted bacon.

Yet another reviewer states "I need a cigarette to get this taste out of my mouth".

For the whole story, click: [HERE](#)

July 2012 Trivia Winner:

PropWorks Propeller Systems!

Located in Winnipeg at 525 Madison Street, PropWorks Propeller Systems also has a location in Edmonton, and serves customers throughout Canada and the U.S. Since opening in 1999, PropWorks Propeller Systems has grown at a remarkable rate and is now one of the largest propeller sales and overhaul companies in Western Canada!

PropWorks has built a loyal customer base, and developed an excellent reputation, by maintaining a standard that meets or exceeds the original manufacturer's requirements. They provide excellent service, combined with fair pricing and innovative solutions for their customers. Their skilled technicians have over 150 years combined experience in the propeller industry and take exceptional pride in their work.

For more information on PropWorks Propeller Systems, call (204) 837-4961 or toll-free 1-888-679-2965. You can also visit their website at: <http://www.propworks.ca>.

Don't forget your entry for this month's trivia for a chance to win coffee & donuts...delivered to your workplace! PLUS, Your company will be featured in next month's issue of TechTips, on our blog, and our Facebook page!

Your feature will reach over 2000 potential customers!!

DO YOU HAVE A BURNING COMPUTER QUESTION ??

Email the Technology By Design Resident Geek!
We'll even translate it from Geek-lish to English,
so the answer actually helps!

Email your question to: geek@tbyd.ca

Check our blog for the answer:
tbyd.ca/blog

Agent 007: They Call Me Horned...

Spy drones are meant to be used to sneak up on the enemy, hear all their malicious plans, and report back to base. However, it's kinda hard to do all that when...well, you could hear the current drones over the music at a heavy metal concert.

Iarpa, the intelligence community's research division, thinks it's got the solution to this 'glitch'. They plan to start designing a silent drone inspired by quiet, creeping, flying owls.

Iarpa has reportedly awarded a \$4.8 million contract to Connecticut-base D-Star Engineering to develop the [ultra-quiet drone](#), as part of the agency's [Great Horned Owl Program](#) (where do they get these names?). Stunningly, the agency think it will be beneficial to the military to collect intelligence "without anyone knowing you are there".

They note that sound is the number one indicator "that gives away the location of low-altitude UAVs and gives away their presence" (where do they find these people, and how do I get their job?). Granted, it's hard to be stealthy and quiet without sacrificing the required sensors, and the ability to operate for longer periods.

Currently, drones powered by batteries are quiet, but they can't stay air-borne for long periods. Then there's the noise caused by the moving parts, as well as by the movement of air. The agency plans to keep the noisy/normal flight operation of the drones for times when silence isn't a factor, and to use battery power when the drone requires stealth. The agency states their goal is to keep the sound of the drone while battery-operated, under 100 decibels, equivalent to the sound of a chainsaw close up. They also want to reduce the "phon curve" (level of sound pressure interpreted by the human ear).

My guess is that the reduction of noise will make a great improvement in the intel that they get from enemy camps. AND I won't even charge them for that intel!



Frankenstein Needs Pet...

A team of scientists at the California Institute of Technology and Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University have taken the heart cells of a rat, arranged them on a piece of rubbery silicon, added a jolt of electricity, and "Franken-jelly" was born. The artificial jellyfish swims around by pumping water in and out of its bell-shaped body, just like a real jellyfish.

Why, you may ask. There is a practical reason behind this, I swear! Researchers are hoping that this can someday help engineers design better artificial heart and other muscular organs.

The team had to make the jellyfish's body strong, but not so strong that the muscle cells could not stiffen it, and the fingerlike lobes of the body had to be adjusted to ensure water could flow in between them. The scientists state that by studying how jellyfish manipulate liquids with their body, they may be able to come up with more accurate ways to fix or even replace damaged heart valves.

To check out the full story by ScienceNOW click: [HERE](#)

To see the YouTube video click: [HERE](#)

AUGUST TRIVIA QUESTION:

This musical instrument has 20 strings. But only 6 or 7 of them are plucked. The other 13 or 14 simply vibrate to give resonance.

What instrument is this?

Email your answer to: answer@tbyd.ca for your chance to win coffee & donuts delivered to your workplace!

PLUS, Your company will be featured in next month's issue of [TechTips](#), on our [blog](#), and our [Facebook](#) page!

Your feature will reach over 2000 other people!



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DVD-RW
1TB Hard Drive
Windows Home Premium
No Crapware

\$699.99



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DVD-RW
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8GB Ram
1GB Radeon 6450 Video Card
DVD-RW
2TB Hard Drive
Windows Home Premium
No Crapware

\$899.99



Some places offer to sell you a similar computer, for cheaper.

So what sets us apart?

TbyD uses top-of-the-line parts in all our computers. AND all TbyD computers come with a **1-year 'Right Here' warranty** meaning you won't have to hand your computer over to a big box store for 6-8 weeks while they send it away to get it repaired.

We replace any defective part for you immediately, and WE deal with the manufacturer after.

We believe our customers' time means something!