



**Technology
by Design**

Email: helpdesk@tbyd.ca
Phone: 204-227-6338

Volume 9

April 2012 Edition

TECH TIPS

Easter Egg Hunting...Geek-Style, Of Course

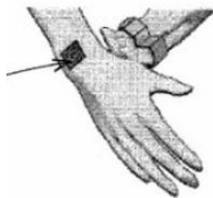
Check out '15 Easter Eggs For Geeks' on Buzz Feed for some amazing decorating ideas for the geek in your life. They've got everything from zombie eggs, Harry Potter eggs, Nightmare Before Christmas eggs, to Angry Birds eggs. Go to <http://www.buzzfeed.com/melismashable/15-easter-eggs-for-geeks> to check out more!

[Image Credit: Buzz Feed]



Uhhh...Is That Your Tattoo Vibrating, or Are You Just Happy to See Me?

This has happened to everyone...You're walking along, minding your own business, and you swear that your cellphone vibrates signalling an all-important phone call. BUT, when you check...nothing. Annoying, to say the least.



Nokia is planning something interesting...or very creepy. They are planning a new patent application for haptic tattoos that vibrate when your phone rings. The process (which is still theoretical at this time) involves being tattooed with ferromagnetic inks that have been superheated (ouch!) in order to become demagnetized. Another, less cool (or cooler??) version involves an adhesive tattoo stuck to your skin. Your tattoo then listens for specific magnetic fields emitted from your electronic device, which could include cell phones, laptops, and game consoles. It then vibrates when it receives the signal.

Nokia states it could be used to notify users about not only incoming phone calls, but also when you launch an app, or get too close to the transmitting device. It could also use different vibrations to indicate different things (vibrate sideways for an incoming call, vibrate up & down for a online notification).

Next stop: debit cards installed under your skin, and timers ingrained into your skin to tell you when 'your time' is up...

Why the blog?

Aka: Don't we hear from you enough?

In our geek-search to fix all things computer, we have found that our clients often have many of the same questions or concerns. We often don't have room in our monthly newsletter, or the newsletter simply doesn't come out often enough to address these frequent questions or concerns.

Check out the blog: tbyd.ca/blog

Let us know what you think!

Email: marketing@tbyd.ca

Don't forget to Continue to Page 2!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: tbyd.ca

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/TechnologybyDesign](https://www.facebook.com/TechnologybyDesign)

READ OUR BLOG: tbyd.ca/blog

Winner's Circle

Congratulations to the Winner of the Trivia Question for coffee & donuts:

Gautron Management Services Inc!

Located in the heart of St. Boniface across from Inferno's Bistro at 309 rue Des Meurons, with free parking available at the rear of the building. Gautron Management Services Inc specializes in small business and personal tax returns. Their clients range from visual artists to self-employed construction contractors, including people who do everything in between!

Their business revolves around their clients, offer bilingual services (French and English), and pride themselves in going the extra mile for their customers! For more information, call 987-4875. Or check out their website at: www.gms-tax.ca/.



[Photo by: Earl Harder]



IBM On A Mission



IBM has announced that it has won a \$42 million contract to work with the Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy (ASTRON) to complete one of the biggest scientific and computing efforts of all time—the Square Kilometer Array (SKA). The SKA

project will be used to explore evolving galaxies, dark matter, and data from the Big Bang, or the creation of the universe more than 13 billion years ago. The site for SKA is expected to be selected this year. Australia/New Zealand and South Africa are reported to be considered for the site, due to the reduced amount of radio pollution in the regions.

Used Xbox360s Hacker-Friendly

You don't use your Xbox 360 anymore, the smart thing is to sell it for some much-needed cash. BUT FIRST, you do the smart thing & restore it back to factory settings and wipe the hard drive to foil those pesky hackers, right? Researchers at Dakota State University tested this theory. They bought a refurbished Xbox360 from a Microsoft-authorized retailer last year, then downloaded a basic modding tool, and gained access to the console's file, folders, and eventually extracted the original owner's credit card info.

Ashley Podhradsky, from Dakota State University states "Microsoft does a great job of protecting their proprietary information, but they don't do a great job of protecting the user's data". She goes on to state that she performed this process fairly easily, in spite of not being a gamer, and she warns that seasoned professionals will likely find the process even easier.

For those looking to sell their console soon, Podhradsky recommends formatting the HDD yourself with some powerful software that writes 1s and 0s to it directly, and specifically states Darik's Boot and Nuke (DBN) tool gets the job done.

To find DBN go to their download site at <http://www.dban.org/>

Mind Over...Missile?

The Nuffield Council on Bioethics, a British ethics group, is currently debating the topic of mind controlled weaponry and what the consequences are of humans and machines acting as one.

The three areas of neurotechnologies, including brain-computer interfaces (BCIs), neurostimulation techniques, and neural stem cell therapy are currently being developed. BCIs makes it possible to control weapons and vehicles remotely using brain signals.

In my opinion, the British have been watching too many old 007 movies...

EASTER TRIVIA QUESTION:

In "It's The Easter Beagle, Charlie Brown", when the gang goes shopping for Easter goodies, what seasonal decorations are already up?

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

Australian Scientists Break Law

Scientists at the University of South Wales have created the possibility of supercomputers that are millions of times faster than today's standard. In a press release, Professor Michelle Simmons, director of the UNSW Centre for Quantum Computation and Communication, reports that scientists used a scanning tunnelling microscope to view and manipulate atoms on the silicon crystal and add phosphorus.

Dr. Simmons states "This is the first time anyone has shown control of a single atom in a substrate with this level of precise accuracy". The single-atom nature of the transistor has reportedly broken Moore's Law (the number of transistors fitting on a single circuit board doubles every two years) which predicted transistors would reach the single-atom level in the year 2020.

Check out the press release at <http://www.science.unsw.edu.au/news/single-atom-transistor-is-perfect/>

DO YOU HAVE A BURNING COMPUTER QUESTION THAT NEEDS ANSWERING??

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

Every two weeks, we will publish one of your
questions, and the answer, on our blog at:
tbyd.ca/blog.

Email your question to: geek@tbyd.ca

Check out the answer on our bi-weekly
blog: tbyd.ca/blog