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April Fools Day: Geek-Style, Of Course

Love it or hate it, April Fools day occurs every year. The best place for pranks? The internet of course! But if your boss hands you a pink slip on the 1st, check his face first before you a) laugh and punch him in the arm; or b) start cursing him/her out, and run crying from the building.

The Top Ten Funniest Geek Pranks

1. Amazon: Real Cloud Computing (2009)

Amazon Web Services announced the Floating Amazon Cloud Environment, or FACE. This included airships with light servers that would float towards you when needed, and could be accessed over WiMax, or if you have a line of sight, "lasers are the way to go".

2. BBC: Flying Penguins (2010)

The BBC reported that flying penguins were a recent addition to the penguin family in evolutionary terms. Reporter Terry Jones 'filmed' a whole host of penguins flying north for the winter to the rainforests before basking in some rays. You can check it out at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Flying_ace.

3. Internet Spring Cleaning (1997)

At a time when the internet was a tiny little little network that many were still claiming "a fad", a hoax went around that people were required to disconnect from the internet for a 24-hour-period. This time was because "during that 24 hour period, five powerful Internet-crawling robots situated around the world will search the Internet and delete any data they find".

4. Face Gesture Browsing (2009)

Browser "Opera" stated it was possible to navigate the web via a series of elaborate expressions. It also warned that "users visiting sites that contain adult content sometimes make unconscious facial expressions".

Check out the video here: <http://dev.opera.com/articles/view/labs-introducing-opera-face-gestures/>

March 2013 Trivia Winner: ABC Power Tools!



ABC Power Tools is family-owned, and has been in business since 1979. Initially a one-person operation, ABC Power Tools expanded into a larger location in order to better serve its rapidly growing power equipment sales and service facility. ABC had to move when it outgrew its location yet again. ABC Power Tools is now located in the historical Transcona Post Office building at 201 Regent Avenue West.

ABC Power Tools is a major service centre, and performs warranty work for various manufacturers. In addition, ABC has a long business association as a dealer for Stihl, Exmark, and others. All products are serviceable by ABC Power Tools. With a fully equipped service facility staffed with expertly trained technicians, you'll never be delayed due to third party repairs.

The only place you'll find inferior products is in their repair shop! ABC has learned that quality is key, and makes jobs more profitable for the business owner, or more pleasurable for the homeowner or weekend warrior.. All items sold by ABC are fully assembled and test run. They also take the time to advise the customer on the most efficient and safest method to operate their new equipment.

ABC Power Tools is proud of their reputation for providing timely, quality, affordable service.

To see more about ABC Power Tools, check out their website at www.abcpowertools.ca. For more information, please contact Judy at 204-224-1760 or 204-222-3139

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!!

'Sun-Kissed Glow' With a Side of Death!

As long as people have roamed this earth, they've searched for that 'sun-kissed glow'. Seeking to find the perfect "I just vacationed in Florida", minus the cancer risk, has led to the invention of self-tanners (not the best invention, I must say), among other things.

Now, a plant that is a close relative of carrots, parsley and celery has people excited. The downside? It could kill you.

Bishop's weed originated in Asia and east Africa, but has made its way around the globe. This plant contains compounds that help it to deal with harsh sunlight, and react with UV light. It retains these properties when ingested, and unleashes its unpleasantness in the presence of sunlight. Usually terrible rashes and blistering. If you stay in the sun past that stage, the plant compounds within your body become carcinogenic. The upside (if you're interested at this point) when a person that has eaten Bishop's weed exposes their skin to sunlight, it darkens dramatically. If you take enough of it, often, your skin will permanently darken.

Why would someone chance the rashes, blisters, and possible death? Bishop's weed has been used since time began to treat vitiligo—the localized whitening of patches of skin. Plant compounds are used in medication today, although the doses are measured and the compound is often manufactured. A carefully measured dose, along with a careful (specialty physician monitored) exposure to UV light, and unusually lightened skin darkens.

Myself, I still can't get past the rashes, blistering and death part.

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

That's a Tight Spot!

For those of you that drive around the block again and again, just so you won't have to parallel park, this one is for you!

Brothers Alister and John have broken the Guinness World Record for the tightest parallel park between two parked cars.

To accomplish this, they must speed towards the parked cars, brake and spin their car into the space, without touching either of the parked cars.

The space they are attempting to park in? Only 13.1 cm longer than the car they are driving. The previous record? 14 cm longer.

Alister failed 4 times, before letting his brother John take the wheel. John also failed a couple times before attaining success.

I'd like to see the video of them trying to get out of the parking spot!

See the video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rBAwFD2EvQ&feature=youtu.be>

He Should be Great at Limbo-ing!

Eastern Chinese province of Zhejiang bus driver Mao Zhihao is lucky he has cat-like reflexes, and he limbo with the best of them!

Mao was driving his bus when he came upon an intersection where a light pole had been knocked over and was sticking out into traffic. Mao was nearly beheaded when the pole smashed through the bus windshield. Mao was able to duck in time, stop the bus, crawl out from under the pole, and assist his passengers to safety.

Other than a ruptured spleen suffered by Mao, none of the other occupants of the bus suffered any injuries.

You can check out the video here: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2013/03/27/175447702/video-bus-driver-keeps-his-head-as-light-pole-smashes-through-windshield>, but be warned it's scary.

JOCKS VS NERDS

MICHAEL JORDAN HAVING "RETIRED," WITH \$40 MILLION IN ENDORSEMENTS, MAKES \$178,100 A DAY, WORKING OR NOT.

IF HE SLEEPS 7 HOURS A NIGHT, HE MAKES \$52,000 EVERY NIGHT WHILE VISIONS OF SUGARPLUMS DANCE IN HIS HEAD.

IF HE GOES TO SEE A MOVIE, IT'LL COST HIM \$7.00, BUT HE'LL MAKE \$18,550 WHILE HE'S THERE.

IF HE DECIDES TO HAVE A 5-MINUTE EGG, HE'LL MAKE \$618 WHILE BOILING IT.

HE MAKES \$7,415/HR MORE THAN MINIMUM WAGE.

HE'LL MAKE \$3,710 WHILE WATCHING EACH EPISODE OF FRIENDS.

IF HE WANTED TO SAVE UP FOR A NEW ACURA NSX (\$90,000) IT WOULD TAKE HIM A WHOLE 12 HOURS.

IF SOMEONE WERE TO HAND HIM HIS SALARY AND ENDORSEMENT MONEY, THEY WOULD HAVE TO DO IT AT THE RATE OF \$2.00 EVERY SECOND.

HE'LL PROBABLY PAY AROUND \$200 FOR A NICE ROUND OF GOLF, BUT WILL BE REIMBURSED \$33,390 FOR THAT ROUND.

ASSUMING HE PUTS THE FEDERAL MAXIMUM OF 15% OF HIS INCOME INTO A TAX DEFERRED ACCOUNT (401K), HIS CONTRIBUTIONS WILL HIT THE FEDERAL CAP OF \$9500 AT 8:30 A.M. ON JANUARY 1ST.

IF YOU WERE GIVEN A PENNY FOR EVERY 10 DOLLARS HE MADE, YOU'D BE LIVING COMFORTABLY AT \$65,000 A YEAR.

HE'LL MAKE ABOUT \$19.60 WHILE WATCHING THE 100 METER DASH IN THE OLYMPICS, AND ABOUT \$15,600 DURING THE BOSTON MARATHON.

WHILE THE COMMON PERSON IS SPENDING ABOUT \$20 FOR A MEAL IN HIS TRENDY CHICAGO RESTAURANT, HE'LL PULL IN ABOUT \$5600.

THIS YEAR, HE'LL MAKE MORE THAN TWICE AS MUCH AS ALL U.S. PAST PRESIDENTS FOR ALL OF THEIR TERMS COMBINED. AMAZING ISN'T IT?

HOWEVER...

IF JORDAN SAVES 100% OF HIS INCOME FOR THE NEXT 450 YEARS, HE'LL STILL HAVE LESS THAN BILL GATES HAS TODAY.

\$\$\$ GAME OVER. NERD WINS.

APRIL TRIVIA QUESTION:

**Which is the only Disney animated movie
in which the title character doesn't speak?**

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!

TechTip Postcard

Insider Tips and Secrets to Get The MOST Out of Your Computer

The Single Most Dangerous Assumption Businesses Make About Bank Security That Can Cause Them To Lose ALL Their Money

Here's a shocker to most business owners: Your bank often can NOT reclaim money stolen from your bank account due to fraud or cyber-crime. That means if money gets drafted from your business bank account from a hacker, phishing attack, identity theft or by any other means, you have little to no chance of getting it back.

This often comes as a surprise to businesses who think the CDIC will "save" them from getting their accounts wiped out, and can get the money back once taken. The reality is that the CDIC insurance is to protect you from bank failure, NOT fraud. So if your debit card or account information gets accessed by a hacker and you don't notice it within the same day, you can pretty much kiss that money goodbye.

Recent studies have shown that 83% of small businesses take no formal measures against cyberthreats even though almost half of all attacks are aimed at them.

Here are 5 essential steps you can take right now to protect your business:

- 1. Enforce A Strict Company Password Policy.** This is a simple step, but it is still violated by many companies every day. Make sure that you and your employees change passwords regularly, don't use the same password for all accounts and require complex passwords.
- 2. Set Up A Firewall.** Small business owners tend to think that because they are "just a small business", no one would waste time trying to hack into their network. The fact is that hackers will target the weakest link. Without a firewall, that "weak link" is YOUR company.
- 3. Designate A Banking-Only Computer.** Banking fraud is one of the biggest threats to small business. The 2011 Business Banking Study showed that 56% of businesses experienced payment fraud (or an attempt at fraud) and 75% experienced account takeover and fraud online. By using a single computer solely dedicated to online financial transactions (no e-mail, web-surfing, Facebook, YouTube, etc.) it's much harder for outsiders to gain access to your information.
- 4. Back Up Your Files Daily.** It just amazes me how many businesses never back up their computer network. You can lose data as well as money in a cyber attack. Thanks to many new cloud based technologies, you can even schedule offsite backups to occur automatically. If the data in your business is important to you, make sure that
- 5. Educate Employees.** You staff is the first line of defense AND your biggest security hole at the same time. Uneducated employees are one of the most common causes of data breaches. Make sure that they are aware of the do's and don'ts for your company with regards to data security.

Download This Free

Executive Guide Today! "What Every Business Owner Must Know About Protecting And Preserving Their Company's Critical Data And Computer Systems"

This FREE Report Reveals What EVERY Business Owner Should Know About:

- Keeping your network safe from viruses, hackers, spam, spyware and other cyberthreats.
- Critical security measures to protect against natural disasters, major system failures, theft and corruption of sensitive data, and even employee sabotage.
- How to dramatically lower or eliminate expensive computer repair bills.
- How to get (and keep) your network running lightening fast.

To download this Free Report, call us now!

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