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TECH TIPS

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Geek Your Ride

It's July, and with July comes road trips. Check out some of the geeked-out license plates you may see on your travels this summer...



1. **Steve Jobs #1 Fan**
 "What Would Steve Jobs Do". I'm guessing he wouldn't get this license plate...or maybe he would...

2. **Sheldon Cooper's License Plate**
 If he drove, of course



3. **Family Unity**



Forget the cling-on family on the back window, advertise your family unit stating how many XX chromosomes and how many XY chromosomes.

4. **Keyboard Nerd**
 By the van, I'm guessing this geek is married...which is amazing in itself



5. **Lego Lover**

6. **Microsoft Fan**
 I'm guessing this wasn't Steve Jobs' car



McDonalds' Blows Budget

McDonalds recently partnered with Visa to make a [website](#) dedicated to showing its employees how to properly budget their minimum wage salaries. However, what it ends up doing, is illustrating how difficult it is for people to get by on minimum wage, as shown in this "example" budget chart:

Sample Monthly Budget	
Monthly Net Income	
Income (1st job)	\$ 1,105
Income (2nd job)	\$ 455
Other Income	\$ 0
Monthly Net Income Total	\$ 2,060
Monthly Expenses	
Savings	\$ 100
Mortgage/Rent	\$ 600
Car Payment	\$ 150
Car/Home Insurance	\$ 100
Health Insurance	\$ 20
Heating	\$ 0
Cable/Phone	\$ 100
Electric	\$ 90
Other	\$ 100
Monthly Expenses Total	\$ 1,260
Monthly Spending Money	\$ 800
<small>(Monthly Net Income Total minus Monthly Expenses Total)</small>	
Daily Spending Money Goal	\$ 27
<small>(Monthly Spending Money divided by 30)*</small>	
<small>* the average of 30 days in a month is used to simplify your budget</small>	

Keep in mind that this chart is based on US minimum wages, which differ from state to state. The "1st job" wage is for a full-time McDonalds employee, minimum wage. The 2nd job, is part-time, but is also minimum wage. Depending on where you live, that could mean working anywhere from 62 hours - 74 hours a week.

Apparently when you work for minimum wage, you don't get to heat your house/apartment—they put a "\$0" in that column. I'm thinking that unless you live in the southern states, you'll need heat at some point during the year.

They also don't factor in food (I guess they figure you'll be eating at work?). They did factor in \$150/month for a car—at that it's going to be a beater! However, they forgot to factor in the gas you'll need for the car (which they did account for) which takes you racing from job to job.

I know what you're thinking—teenagers don't have house or car payments. In Canada, 29% of minimum wage workers are age 25 to 54. The majority of minimum wage workers live with their parent, alone, or were the head of a household without a spouse. Some of those are parents trying to raise a kid on this budget.

July 2013 Trivia Winner:

Joe Jakab at

Best-Way Cargo Management Inc.!



Located at Unit 5—935 McLeod Avenue, Best-Way Cargo Management Inc. has been in business since 2009. They are a unique 24/7 operation, that prides itself in exceptional customer service. We work with our clients to develop solutions based on their logistics/transportation requirements and their customer's needs.

With vast experience in project work, they have assisted their clients in meeting delivery schedules and transportation budgets.

As a Transportation Intermediary, with extensive experience in Domestic, Transborder and International logistics, Best-Way Cargo Management Inc. has a strong competitive advantage in the industry. They have the ability to individually meet their clients' transportation objectives in a cost-effective, efficient manner that allows them to focus on their core business.

Consider Best-Way Cargo Management Inc. as one of your company's service provider partners, and look forward to reviewing your company's logistics needs in the very near future. They can provide service rate and information in the following areas, depending on your company's needs:

- A) LTL or TL within Canada, between USA & Canada, Within USA (Decks, Vans, Reefers, Double Drops, Steps, Super B's),
- B) Single or Team service,
- C) Overseas—Exports or Imports,
- D) Warehousing & Distribution,
- E) Work site deliveries/projects.

For more information, call Joe Jakab at 204-272-5622, or check out their website at www.best-waycargo.com

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, Twitter, and our Facebook page!

Your feature will reach over 2000 potential customers!!

Sesame Street Goes to Prison

With an increasing number of people incarcerated in the United States, Sesame Street has seen a need to provide support to children of incarcerated parents.

1 in 28 kids in the United States have a parent in state or federal prison. These kids have to deal with the confusion, shame, and anger that accompany the sudden absence of a parent.

"In order to support children with an incarcerated parent and help them persevere through such a challenging experience, Sesame Workshop launched the [Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration](#) initiative."

Sesame Street also presented a skit where puppet, Alex, has a father in prison. The skit shows Alex, Abby and Rosita discussing Alex's father's incarceration. They discuss what incarceration is, and how it makes Alex feel, especially when friends ask where his father is.

For more information on this, and many other child-relevant topics, go to www.sesamestreet.org.

Urine-Fueled Cellphones

"Making a deposit" could take on a whole new meaning.

Researchers at the Bristol Robotics Laboratory harnessed an electrical charge by passing urine, yes urine, through a stack of microbial cells. The microbial fuel cells convert energy, which turns organic matter directly into electricity, via the metabolism of live micro-organisms. The urine then reacted to compounds including chloride, sodium and potassium.

According to the Royal Society of Chemistry journal, the resulting charge was enough to make a brief call on a Samsung phone, send a text message, or browse the web.

The laboratory, which is a collaboration between the University of the West of England and the University of Bristol, said the electricity was a by-product of the microbes' natural life cycle—the more they eat, the more energy they produce for longer periods of time.

The scientists now plan to develop the technology to be able to fully charge the handheld device and Dr. Leropoulos said a 'smart toilet' could also be developed that would produce enough electricity to power showers, lighting or razors.

COMING THIS FALL!

This fall TbyD will present a
Lunch & Learn

Call 204-800-3167 Or email: helpdesk@tbyd.ca

\$92 Quadrillion PayPal Error

Chris Reynolds, a 56-year-old from Media, Pennsylvania found something interesting in his monthly statement from PayPal. Reynolds, who uses PayPal to buy and sell eBay items (particularly vintage auto parts), found a balance of \$92,233,720,368,547,800—or roughly \$92 quadrillion—on his statement.

Reynolds, initially thought the statement said they he owed quadrillions. Double-checking his account, he discovered his balance was now \$0.

Reynolds stated that the imaginary epic windfall left him feeling charitable, and he donated \$30 to a charity. “I was moved to be really generous by good fortune,” stated Reynolds. Reynolds states he’s a really responsible guy, and would use the money to pay down debts, pay the national debt down, then buy the Phillies if he could get them at a good price.

AUGUST TRIVIA QUESTION:

Name the first animated character to get their own postal stamp in 1997?

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!

Lawnmower On Steroids

Tim Taylor take note!

The first test-runs of a lawnmower that could reach speeds of more than 130 mph have taken place.

The “mower” was made for Honda for Top-Gear magazine, and goes from 0-60 mph (95 km/h) in roughly four seconds.

Top Gear magazine states, in a road test on the back straight of the Circuit de Charade testing course in France, the mower clocked in at “just over 100mph).

Honda manufactured the mower to increase its “sporty” credentials. Piers Ward, Top Gear’s senior road tester states “Honda has fitted two 4,000 rpm electric motors with metal brake cables attached to flail the green stuff into submission”.

The high-powered engine gives the mower a 130 decibel roar, and creates flames from the exhaust. To which Mr. Ward stated, “Hearing it for the first time, and seeing flames spitting out of the exhaust, didn’t exactly make me feel relaxed before I drove it.” To get up to (and over) the 100mph, the improvised cutting mechanism was removed “because with the cutting deck attached, the ground clearance is about 1cm.”

According to a spokesperson from the British Lawnmower Racing Association, reports there are strict guidelines over the point at which a modified lawnmower “isn’t really a lawnmower anymore.” Honestly, I can think of several guys that don’t care about that little detail.

TechTip Postcard

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

What You Need To Know About Security Breach Notification Laws

It's Monday morning and one of your employees notifies you that they lost their laptop at a Starbucks over the weekend, apologizing profusely. Aside from the cost and inconvenience of buying a new laptop, could you be on the hook for bigger costs, and should you notify all your clients? Maybe, depending on where you live and what type of data you had stored on that laptop.

An Emerging Trend In Business Law

Since companies are storing more and more data on their employees and clients, data breaches and security laws that set out the responsibilities for businesses capturing and storing personal data are starting to be aggressively enforced. What is considered confidential or sensitive data? Definitely medical and financial records such as credit card numbers, credit scores and bank account numbers, but also addresses and phone numbers, social security numbers, birthdays and in some cases purchase history—information that almost every single company normally keeps on their clients.

“We Did Our Best” Is No Longer An Acceptable Answer

With millions of cyber criminals working daily to hack systems, and with employees accessing more and more confidential client data, there is no known way to absolutely, positively guarantee you won't have a data breach. However, your efforts to put in place good, solid best practices in security will go a long way to help you avoid hefty fines. Here are some basic things to look at to avoid being labeled irresponsible:

- ✓ **Managing access.** Who can access the confidential information you store in your business? Is this information easily accessible by everyone in your company? What is your policy about taking data out of the office on mobile devices?
- ✓ **IT security and passwords** The more sensitive the data, the higher the level of security you need to keep on it. Are your passwords easy to crack? Is the data encrypted? Secured behind a strong firewall? If not, why?
- ✓ **Training.** One of the biggest causes for data breaches is the human element: employees who accidentally download viruses and malware that allow hackers easy access. Do you have a data security policy? A password policy? Do you have training to help employees understand how to use e-mail and the Internet responsibly?
- ✓ **Physical security.** It's becoming more common for thieves to break into offices and steal servers, laptops and other digital devices. Additionally, paper contracts and other physical documents containing sensitive information should be locked up or scanned and encrypted.

The bottom line is this: Data security is something that EVERY business is now responsible for, and not addressing this important issue has consequences that go beyond the legal aspect; it can seriously harm your reputation with clients. So be smart about this. Talk to your attorney about your legal responsibility.



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