



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

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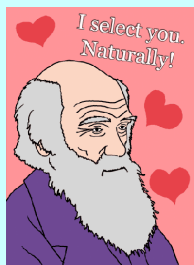
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Valentine Cards for the Geek in Your Life

Everyone knows that it takes a special person to be a Geek. So how do you declare your love for the Geek in your life? With a special Geek Valentine card, of course!

Check out these Geek Valentines posted on a UK Internet dating site.

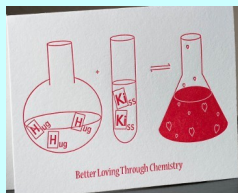
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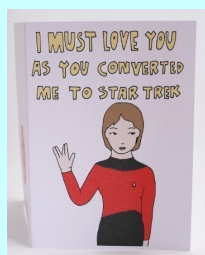
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For the entire card collection (there's 21 in all), please go to: <http://www.freedating.co.uk/articles/geek-valentines-day-cards.html>

January 2013 Trivia Winner:

Joby at Gramma Marie's Children's Centre!



Gramma Marie's is located at 1461 Chevier Blvd. For over 25 years, Gramma Marie's has been nurturing

Winnipeg's children and serving families by providing fun, experienced and individualized childcare.

Gramma Marie's Children's Centre opened a brand new, state-of-the-art, 10,000 square foot facility in 2010. The new facility helps provide variety and endless learning opportunities. Thanks to their 5 bright classrooms, large gym, outdoor classroom, water play areas, and beautifully landscaped natural play space, they promote social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development.

At Gramma Marie's, they know that each child is special, and they alter their nuanced, well-tested programs to suit your family's needs!

Gramma Marie's is staffed with qualified and screened ECEs, teachers, and support staff, and are licensed and regulated by Manitoba Early Learning & Child Care. They offer full-time and part-time registered programs, as well as casual care. Open Monday to Friday 7:00am - 5:45pm, Gramma Marie's also provides school transportation and summer care.

For more information on Gramma Marie's Children's Centre you can call Karolina Dressler, Director, or Gianna DeStefano, Assistant Director at 204-487-7879. You can also check out their website at: www.grammamaries.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!

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Your feature will reach over 2000 potential customers!!

Deep Space Mine?

Deep Space Industries hopes to boldly manufacture where no one's manufactured before.

A new private company, Deep Space Industries recently announced that it intends to send a fleet of small spacecraft to near-by asteroids, with the intention of mining the resources and turning them into products.

Rick Tumlinson, founder and chairman of DSI, states "We are about prospecting, exploring, harvesting, extracting, and manufacturing based on the resources of space".

According to sources, asteroids contain potentially extremely valuable material, including nickel, silicon, platinum group metals such as platinum and palladium, and water. DSI estimates that 1 ton of asteroid material would be worth \$1 million in orbit

DSI intends to send out their space fleet (called "Fire Flies"), to collect data about the best asteroids for mining, beginning in 2015.

In order to fund this expensive-sounding venture, DSI hope to sell asteroid data to government space agencies and asteroid material to collectors to help get the company off and running.

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

Guys' New Pickup Line...By Subway!

"Footlong is a registered trademark, not intended to be a measurement of length" exclaims Subway., after being outed by a couple of guys in New Jersey. These really hungry guys, measured Subway's "footlong" subs consistently at under 12 inches.

After making the initial trademark claim, above, which got them in hot water with the public, Subway now vows to make good on their footlong promise.

"For 47 years, customer satisfaction has been our top priority. We regret any instance where we did not fully deliver on our promise to our customers. We freshly bake our bread throughout the day in our more than 38,000 restaurants in 100 countries worldwide, and we have redoubled our efforts to ensure consistency and correct length in every sandwich we serve. Our commitment remains steadfast to ensure that every Subway Footlong sandwich is 12 inches at each location worldwide."

I'm sure the two guys from Jersey are excited for the good they did the world, and not for any damages they may receive from the lawsuit they brought against Subway.

My bigger concern is that guys everywhere will adopt Subway's disclaimer as their own. I'll wait while you think about that one....

FEBRUARY TRIVIA QUESTION:

Statistically, a woman buying flowers on Valentine's Day, is most likely buying them for....who?

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!

Conspiracy Theorists Gather 'Round!

Biometric technology boomed after 9/11, governments everywhere pouring money into different recognition systems such as facial and iris recognition. The Pentagon alone spent almost \$3 billion over 5 years. Since that time, the biometric identification movement has slowed somewhat, partly due to the scanners not being all they were cracked up to be.

However, development of the biometrics technology has not slowed, and in fact academics continue to find new ways to more accurately identify people. These are the 11 body parts governments are looking to use to identify you:

1. **The Ear:** Researchers are currently exploring ways to detect ears' individual features, in order to use them similar to, and perhaps even more accurate than, fingerprints.
2. **Odour:** The science is intricate, involving more than 300 chemical compounds that produce human odour. All aimed at identifying your "primary odour", separate from "secondary odours" such as perfumes, shampoo, etc.
3. **Heartbeat:** Your heartbeat in itself isn't distinct enough to identify you, but put it together with "soft biometrics" (e.g how someone subtly sways when they stand up", and it makes for a unique signature that can't be disguised.
4. **Voice:** Governments currently have the technology to analyze the voice of thousands, and use those voices to identify specific people. The National Institute of Standards and Technology concluded its Biometric Exploitation Science and Technology Program which made "speaker recognition advances which included improving robustness to noise, reverberation, and vocal effort, and by automatically detecting these conditions in audio channels".
5. **The iris:** Everyone knows about eye scanners. But, how about a scanner that can scan irises at a rate of 30 people per minute, from a distance of 10 feet, and can see through contact lenses and glasses.
6. **Periocular:** The area around the eye has many complex features, however these features stay remarkably stable as a person ages.
7. **Fingerprints:** This has been around forever. However, one developer is currently working on a scanner that they state will read your fingerprints from a distance of up to 20 feet.
8. **Gait:** I can spot my brother in a crowd, simply from the way he walks. This isn't new. However, if someone is carrying something, or has hurt their leg, this changes their gate. With the widespread use of smartphones comes an interesting new way of identifying someone's stride: Smartphones all have accelerometers—sensors that measure how far, how fast, and with how much force an object moves—which assists in capturing a person's unique walking pattern.
9. **Sweat:** The U.S. Army has awarded a California security firm to develop software that uses sensors to detect "abnormal perspiration and changes in body temperature".
10. **Advanced Facial Recognition:** Most current scanners need a long, clear, straight ahead shot before they can reliably work. Currently researchers are working on scanners that can use pieced together snapshots, from longer distances, that can work quicker. Want creepy? There is a mobile app called "PittPatt" (which has been acquired by Google) that scan your face and match it up with images of the person on the internet...all in less than a minute.
11. **DNA:** This, also, isn't new. However, the speed in which it can be done, is. There are currently machines in operation, that can scan your DNA sample, analyze it, and create a DNA profile...in less than 90 minutes.

I don't know about you, but I feel like turning out all the lights, closing the blinds, putting a foil hat on, and hiding out for a while.

TechTip Postcard

FEBRUARY 2013

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

“It’s Time To Break Up With Your Old Tape Drive”

They say breaking up is hard to do; but when it comes to choosing between your old familiar tape drive and risking your company’s data, it should be a no-brainer. Tape drives are notorious for failure — and if you are still swapping out tapes as your only backup source, here are 4 reasons you need to break it off:

1. **Your tape drive is a cheater.** Here you are, faithfully swapping tapes and taking them home every day (at least you do most of the time), feeling secure that your data is safe and that you could be back up and running again fast in the event of a disaster, right? Wrong.

Your tape drive only backs up your data—the information you have physically typed in; but your software programs, network settings, printer and Internet configurations are NOT getting backed up and cannot be recovered from the tape. That means if your server were to go up in flames (or simply fails) you would have to find all your software disks and authentication codes and REBUILD your server. That task could take several days, costing you a lot of money and lost time.

2. **You could lose an entire day’s worth of work.** Ever lose an hour’s worth of work or a document because Word crashed? Now imagine losing an ENTIRE DAY’S worth of work. Frustrating, huh? Since tape drives can’t perform open file OR continuous backups, if your system crashes at the end of the day, all the documents, entries and work you (and your entire staff) completed that day are toast. And if Murphy’s Law applies, that would be the day you hammered through a grueling 30-page report.

Newer virtual backup systems will take a snapshot of your computer or server as often as you need, saving your work from going into Never-Neverland.

3. **Your tape drive will abandon you when you need it most.** You can only retrieve the data from your tape with a compatible tape drive. If you have had your tape drive more than 2 years, it may be a phased out model, no longer available to order. This could mean that when you need to recover your data, you are unable to, even if the data is there.

4. **You can’t trust a tape drive.** Tapes have an average failure rate of 100%—they all fail, it’s just a matter of when, not if. Plus, you have to remember to swap out tapes every day, which leaves room for human error.

The bottom line is this: Tape drives are antiquated, and they’re an incredibly unpredictable way of backing up your company’s data. That’s why we urge all our clients to “break up” with their old tape drives and upgrade to monthly managed backups



Contact us today for a free estimate on switching over to a backup system that you can actually fall in love with! 204-800-3167