



TechTips

The "Selfie" Olympics

Now an 'Olympic sport'!

How many of you are as annoyed of the word "selfie" as I am? Unfortunately the word didn't just self-destruct the end of the year 2013 like we (or at least I) had hoped.

With more than 95,000 followers, the twitter feed features nothing but selfies of people trying to one-up the others by doing ridiculous things. Some people made fun of celebrities such as Miley Cyrus (there were quite a few "Wrecking Ball" interpretations), while others just tried taking the photo of themselves in the silliest way possible. One person even

managed to get everything from his living room into his bathroom to take a photo.

How are gold, silver and bronze medals determined? Although there are no real rules to this game, it's guessed that it's through the total numbers of re-tweets each photo has.

The "Selfie Olympics" has since been renamed the "Selfie Games", probably because the creators feared legal action from the real Olympics Federation.

Good luck to those of you who hope to compete in these heroic games.



Top 10 Google Searches of 2013

10. Lac-Megantic
9. Harlem Shake
8. North Korea
7. Royal Baby
6. Nelson Mandela
5. Boston Marathon
4. Tim Bosma
3. Paul Walker
2. Cory Monteith
1. Rob Ford



THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA QUESTION

Last month, the trivia question was:

In Charles Dicken's novel "A Christmas Carol", who was Scrooge's dead business partner?

The answer was Jacob Marley, who was also the first ghostly visitor Scrooge had that night.

This month, for either Battlefield 4 for PC or a wireless keyboard and mouse, the question is:

In the Star Wars series, what was the name of the ship Han Solo used to win the Kessel run?

E-mail answer@tbyd.ca with your answer for a chance to win!

THE DEATH OF BUBBLEWRAP

You get a package in the mail, but forget what you ordered, there's bubble wrap to be popped! You set your ordered product to the side and spend a good fifteen minutes making sure every single bubble has been popped.

This fun experience may or may not soon be just a memory if Amazon continues it's research of a new type of packaging, called ExpandOS. It's made out of a cardboard like material, and is made into a 3D design.

Amazon found packing peanuts were environmentally toxic, paper wadding was imprecise, and bubble wrap, as fun as it is, was a complete waste of time, both for the producer and the consumer.

They wanted something better for the environment and something that would keep items in place. A piece of material used to make the ExpandOS is roughly the size of a box of paper, and will make enough of these pieces to fill a refrigerator.

Though we will all miss popping the bubble wrap after opening our packages, the ExpandOS sounds like a pretty good option.



MUGGER REFUSES FLIP PHONE

Brooklyn resident Kevin Cook was walking through Central Park late at night when he ended up looking down the barrel of a gun and was asked for his phone. He did what anyone else in his position would have done, and handed over his phone- an old flip phone.

Cook says that the mugger then took one "what the heck is this?" look at the phone and

handed it back to him. Cook then used the phone to call 911, but the mugger had already taken off.

New York police commented that though the theft of iPhones is sitting at about 14% of all New York crime, the theft of old flip phones is pretty rare.



LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA WINNER IS....

We had **no correct answer** to the trivia answer last month, so there is no winner to talk about!

Did you know the answer and not enter? This month, you could have gotten yourself and your co-workers coffee and doughnuts.

You missed out!

Make sure you answer this month's trivia to get your chance to win either a copy of Battlefield 4 on PC, or a wireless keyboard and mouse!

"YOU'VE GOT ICE CREAM"

We all know the tune of the ice cream truck. As kids, it's the tune that used to make us drool and immediately beg our parents for a few dollars, just so we could track, then chase the truck down.

In the Swedish town of Eslov, the residents are complaining that the tunes played by ice cream trucks are distracting and are demanding the music stop.

Engelholm, the local ice cream truck company says that because of these complaints, they will drive the trucks in silence. No more music for children to use as

a tracking method to find their favourite summertime treat.

Instead, a text message will be sent to houses close to the location of the ice cream truck. The company says that a letter will be dropped off at every house giving the option to have their number added to the system. If they do not give permission, there will be no text message given when the truck is nearby, so no ice cream for those residents.

IPADS IN SCHOOLS A GOOD IDEA?

With the amount of technology available to kids everyday, Canadian researches wondered about how technology would work in the classroom. iPads are starting to make an appearance in classrooms, but are they working to help teach?

The survey of over 6000 students between grades 6 to 10, and 300 teachers suggested that iPads or other tablets were a worthwhile investment, provided they are used properly, and the teachers are prepared for the switch in teaching method. Of the teachers surveyed, only 30% of teachers said they had previously used an iPad, as opposed to the 46.4% of their students. Because of this, many teachers ended up still figuring out their iPad the first day of school, while their students were already on Facebook or playing Candy Crush. In fact, one third of the students surveyed confessed to playing games during school hours or in class.

Research also showed that the iPads were not being used to their full potential. Many students said that they rarely used the iPads for reading, and the majority of assignments were still needing to be handed in by paper means. About 85% also said they never or rarely used the iPads to do written work.

Out of school, the students said 76% of time, the tablets were used for either social media or for gaming. With time being also being spent in class on things other than schoolwork, it very easy to say the tablets are more a distraction than a teaching aide. However, on a scale of 1 to 5 of the helpfulness of the iPad as a teaching tool, teachers rated it as a 3, while the students rated it at a 3.5.

R2D2 THIEF



Hide your Star Wars collectables! A resident of Texas reports that over the Christmas holiday, someone broke into his garage and stole his life size version of R2D2.

However, Chris Bartlett is not just any average fan. He is often hired by Lucas Films to dress up and portray another robot in the series, C3PO when the original actor, Anthony Daniels, is not available for things like commercials or special events.

Bartlett is asking Star Wars fans to keep their eyes out, and that if anyone sees this missing robot anywhere, eBay or Craigslist included, they should contact him through email at chris@TK409.com.

EXPIRATION NOTICE

An **URGENT** Security Warning For Businesses Running Windows XP Or Office 2003

If your organization is currently running either Windows XP or Office 2003 on one or more computers in your office, you need to know about a dangerous security threat to your organization that must be addressed within the next 3 months. Please take a moment to read this important announcement.

As your local Microsoft Registered Partner, we are aggressively reaching out to all businesses within the Winnipeg area that use Windows XP and Office 2003 to alert you of this serious security risk to your organization and inform you about what you need to do now to protect your company.

XP And Office 2003 Changes Must Be Made By April 8, 2014

Microsoft has officially announced that it will retire support on the XP operating system and Office 2003 software suite on April 8, 2014. That means any computer with these software programs installed **will be completely exposed to serious hacker attacks** aimed at taking control of your network, stealing data, crashing your system and inflicting a host of other business-crippling problems you do NOT want to have to deal with.

This is such a serious threat that all companies housing financial and medical information **are being required by law to upgrade any and all computer systems** running XP or Office 2003 because firewalls and anti-virus software will NOT be sufficient to completely protect them (or you).

Unless you don't care about cyber criminals running rampant in your company's server, you **MUST** upgrade any equipment running these programs.

FREE Microsoft Risk Assessment And Migration Plan

Shows You The Easiest, Most Budget-Friendly Way To Upgrade

At no cost, we'll come to your office and conduct our proprietary Performance Assessment to not only determine what specific computers will be affected by this announcement, but also to assess other security, backup and efficiency factors that could be costing you in productivity and hard dollars. We will also put together a customized Migration Plan for your office.

www.tbyd.ca/microsoft-risk-assessment



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