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TECH TIPS

Microsoft Epiphany: Silent Updates are Great, Coming to Internet Explorer in January

Starting this month, Microsoft will begin automatically upgrading some Windows users to the latest version of Internet Explorer available for their PCs. The silent updates, which will kick off for customers in Australia and Brazil only, are deemed an "important step in helping to move the web forward", though are considered a trial run. Microsoft didn't say when it plans to flip the automatic update switch specifically for Windows users living in the U.S. and Canada.

Microsoft reports "For consumers, the safety benefits are one of the key reasons that the industry has been moving towards automatic updates as the norm. This is increasingly important since the biggest online threat these days is *socially engineered malware*, which typically targets outdated software like Web browsers.

Microsoft reportedly isn't going to force automatic updates on anyone who doesn't want them. Organizations and individuals will have the option to opt-out and install an Automatic Update Blocker toolkit to prevent upgrades of Internet Explorer. In addition, customers who declined previous installations of IE8 or IE9 through Windows Update will not be automatically updated, Microsoft said.



For help with how to prevent (or get rid of) malware,
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Or see our ad on page 2 for more information!

U.K. Judge Approves Live Tweeting and Other Text-Based Communications in Court

How technology changes us...Journalists are now allowed to fire off live text-based communications, such as mobile e-mail and social media (including Twitter), and Internet enabled laptops in and from courts throughout England and Wales without asking for permission, a U.K. judge ruled. Prior to the ruling, reporters would have to issue a request, but that rule has now been removed.

How the O.J. Simpson trial would have been changed for millions around the world...

Trivia Winner – Congratulations to the Winner of the Trivia Question for Tim Horton's coffee & donuts: Faucet Signs Ltd!

Located at 1791 Main Street, has provided an extensive range of sign and commercial art services and products since 1976. From computer designed graphics and vinyl lettered signs to hand painted or fine airbrushed art and murals, Faucet Signs Ltd covers all four corners of the sign and commercial art field. With prompt reliable service, we place a high priority on listening and responding to customer needs, ensuring complete customer satisfaction. For more information about Faucet Signs Ltd, please call them at 204-334-1529.

Faucet Signs is relatively new to Technology By Design, and is currently working with TByD for data protection solutions.



Top 10 Geek New Years Resolutions

1. Lose weight, bathe more regularly and stop peeing in soda cans during long hours of gaming.
2. Read a book that isn't science fiction, fantasy, or a technical manual.
3. Limit my use of LOL, WTF, FTW, w00t, and teh to written conversation.
4. Resist the urge to ridicule people who've never owned a smartphone.
5. Show tolerance for people who don't know the difference between memory and hard drive space.
6. Quit tweeting from the bathroom.
7. Develop at least one snappy comeback that isn't directly lifted from a movie or TV show.
8. Spend at least one hour a day away from all forms of electronic entertainment.
9. Check downstairs to see if family is still alive.
10. Learn a new sport/Learn a sport.

Sadly, more than a few of these could be recommended to certain members of my family...I won't say which ones...

Tech Tips has now expanded to 2 pages!



Cisco: IT Security Policies Too Soft for Gen Y

Young employees determined to log onto Facebook or bounce around the Web are going to do so, in part because they're motivated to get online and frequently ignore IT policies, and also because the policies in place simply aren't tough enough, according to a global study from Cisco. 7 out of 10 young employees outright ignore IT policies on a frequent basis, and 1 in 4 is a victim of identity theft before the age of 30, Cisco says.

Cisco believes the high rate of identity theft among young people could be a direct result of loosening privacy boundaries. What's more, over a third of employees surveyed responded negatively when asked if they respect their IT departments.

"Of those who were aware of IT policies, 7 of every 10 employees worldwide admitted to breaking policy with varying regularity. Among many reasons, the most common was the belief that employees were not doing anything wrong (33 percent). 1 in 5 cited the need to access unauthorized programs and applications to get their job done, while 19 percent admitted the policies are not enforced. Some (18 percent) said they do not have time to think about policies when they are working, and others said adhering to the policies is not convenient (16 percent), they forget to do it (15 percent), or their bosses aren't watching them (14 percent)."

The report also states that 33 percent of college students say they don't mind sharing personal information online or think about privacy. The alarming part for businesses is that this attitude carries over to the workplace, where 3 out of 5 employees believe they aren't responsible for protecting information and devices, and instead it's the IT department and/or service providers who are accountable.

Trivia Question:
 The first New Years Eve ball drop in Times Square happened in which year?
 Email your answer to: answer@tbyd.ca for your chance to win Tim Horton's coffee & donuts delivered to your door!



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GammaTech's Rugged R13C Convertible Comes Ready to Wrestle Polar Bears

If Survivor ever ventured north, geeks would clamber to bring this as their luxury item. We try to steer clear of explosive atmospheres, freezing conditions, and sand storms whenever possible, but if there's no way around it, you can bet we'll leave our Ultrabook at home. A more appropriate companion is a rugged PC designed for harsh environments, and GammaTech claims its new Durabook R13C convertible is the type of PC that's perfectly suited for law enforcement, military, homeland security, field service, mining, and mobile works in any type of environment.

Rugged on the outside, and fairly well spec'd on the inside, the R13C can be used as a tablet or a notebook. The R13C passes Military Standard 810G certification for drop, shock, and spill protection, and explosive atmosphere, salt, fog, and freeze/thaw standards.

Now for the true test...if it can withstand use/abuse by my teenage daughter...

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