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TECH TIPS

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Top Geek New Year's Resolutions

The party's over (for most of us, anyway), and it's now time to start thinking about those New Year's resolutions that we muttered out somewhat hastily when one busybody decided to ask. We know the usuals...lose weight, eat better, stop yelling obscenities at the driver in the car next to you, and on and on.

But what about geeks? They need resolutions too! If the geek in your life is looking for an ideal goal that they won't achieve, but want to feel guilty all year about not achieving (even if that geek is you), then read on!

1. Back Up Your Stuff!

Everyone agrees that backing up your data is a good idea. Yet so many people fail to do so. Hard drives crash, SD cards break, and data goes to the same place that the socks from your drier go. Now is a good time to start backing up your data. External hard drives are an affordable solution, but you need to remember to switch them out, and keep the hard drive with your data on offsite. The backed-up data is useless if the hard drive with it was destroyed in the fire that destroyed the computer.

2. Start Using Two-Factor Authentication

Passwords are vulnerable to simple guessing, keyboarding, and can be gathered through social engineering. Everyone thinks it'll never happen to them. Until it does. Two-factor authentication requires that a user have two methods of authenticating themselves, instead of just a password. The second method is usually a text message or phone call that delivers a randomly generated code to a user-specified number. That code must be entered to proceed.

3. Waste Less Time Online

I know, you don't waste time. However your computer's browser history might tell a different story. Check out how many You-Tube videos you watched (that cat playing the piano never gets old!), or a link on a friend's Facebook page, or a Tumblr that's gone viral. We're all guilty of procrastination at one time or another. Time management tools can help, but if you have no willpower, even Superman won't help you make your deadlines.

4. Play More Games With Friends

Why, when the single-user games are so much fun? Well, it'll get you out of your mother's basement, for one. Socialization, and face-to-face interaction are of benefit to everyone. The genre doesn't matter. From table-top games, to LAN parties, as long as you're interacting, it's all good!

Navy SEALs Take on Jabba the Hut!

Navy SEALs are having a banner year, with tell-all books, documentaries, and big-budget action movies. There's nothing these bad-@sses can't do.

BUT how would US Navy SEALs handle Jabba the Hut, or the undead?

Wired Magazine asked Don Mann, a 17-year SEAL veteran just that. And if you're doubting Don's credentials, he's authored "US Navy SEAL Survival Handbook" and is a Team Six trainer (you know, the Team Six that killed Osama). Wired asked Don how the SEALs would handle some epic missions, from movies such as Return of the Jedi, Dawn of the Dead, and Willow.

To check out how the SEALs would take out Jabba the Hut (and hopefully Jar Jar Binks too), go to: <http://www.wired.com/underwire/2012/12/navyseal-movie/?cid=5180044>



START THE NEW YEAR CLEAN!

Your computer should be cleaned every 6 months, to have it run smoothly and to the best of its ability.

We call this an "optimization", because it optimizes the computer.

Your computer will thank you!

Call 204-800-3167

Or email: helpdesk@tbyd.ca

Mark Zuckerberg's Mini-Me

Zachary Marks, an 11-year-old in Florida, lied about his age to gain a Facebook account. However, his parents banned him from using the social media giant after an adult "friend" cursed and posted inappropriate material on Zach's page. So Zach did what any 11-year-old would do. He created his own social network tailored specifically to children.

Zach said he still wanted to be able to connect with friends, but the existing kid-friendly social networks were too childish. Zach created a network for "Groms", a slang term for young surfers that Zach reports means "precocious kid", or something similar. Zach's social network, Grom Social, only allows parents and parent-approved adults to join Grom Social. Parents of kid members are kept up to date on their youngster's online activities, and even has a built-in language filter.

Grom Social is also compliant with COPPA, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, a controversial law aimed at keeping kids safe online.

Currently, Grom Social has almost 7,000 members, and is open to users under 15 in the U.S. and Canada.

To check out Grom Social, go to: <http://www.gromsocial.com/index.php>

JANUARY TRIVIA QUESTION:

The 3 witches in Shakespeare's Macbeth utter what eerie chant?

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!

The Eyes Have It

"Honest dear, I wasn't looking at that pop-up ad"! Soon, simply glance at the Google Chrome icon, and you will open a new webpage. No mouse required.

Tobii REX, the first eye-tracking computer peripheral, will make its debut next week at CES 2013. The small, stick-like device attaches to the bottom of a desktop or laptop, and plugs into the USB port. The Tobii REX does one better than last year's Tobii Gaze, by enabling gaze-control interaction on any computer that has Windows 8.

The Tobii REX is currently only available to developers at a price tag of \$995. Tobii Technology hopes to mass-market a consumer version in 2014.

The Tobii REX will not make the mouse/keyboard obsolete quite yet, but according to the Tobii Technology website, it "reduces a majority of the fuss of moving the mouse pointer around and makes the computer interaction faster, more intuitive and more fun".

However, I for one, would be wary about glancing at any provocative pop-up ads with your spouse in the room. My prediction is once gaze-control technology becomes more readily available in consumer electronics, that pop-up ads are going to be over-the-top trying to catch your gaze. You'll see ads for cheese using chesty comic book clad women in their ads.

"I'm going to give you a little advice. There's a force in the universe that makes things happen. And all you have to do is get in touch with it, stop thinking, let things happen, and be the ball."

- Ty Webb, *Caddyshack*

A Round of Feces for My Friends!

Oftsongsul: A traditional Korean “feces wine” made by soaking chicken, dog or human feces in soju alcohol until the mixture ferments. Not a popular drink, but is rumored to cure illness, and heal bone fractures.

Recently, Japanese news site Rocket News 24 obtained some bottles of the wine, but after the initial smell and taste test, no one in the office actually wanted to drink it. So they did what any respectable news site would do: they tricked a Japanese all-girl air-band into drinking it.

Rocket News told the girls they would be the first to try a new Korean herbal wine. Before they knew the truth, the feedback on the wine was positive. “Yum!...It has a refined and elegant taste”. “What’s this sweetness, I wonder...This would be great for girls who like sweet alcoholic beverages. I’d drink this again!”

Of course, after they knew the truth, the girls drastically changed their, um, tunes, and insisted the drink tasted like poop. It seems as though the only way to know if it’s any good is to try it yourself.

Or, you could, do almost anything else. My thought is...who was the first one to make this, and did they get in trouble for making their little sister drink it?

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

December 2012 Trivia Winner:

Sandy at Tri-Power Electric Ltd!



Congratulations to Sandy at Tri-Power Electric Ltd. for submitting the winning correct trivia answer: Who-Hash!

Located at 586B Dobbie Avenue, Tri-Power Electric has been serving the people of Winnipeg since 1988. Tri-Power Electric are Commercial/Industrial Contractors, provide Field Lighting and Fire Alarm installation.

For more information about Tri-Power Electric Ltd., call Sandy at 204-661-1063.

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!!

A Good News Week For Poop

In yet another poop-related story, researchers at the University of Guelph believe they have an ingenious new weapon in the fight against the stomach disease Clostridium difficile, which is wreaking havoc in hospitals around the world. The name of their solution: RePOOPulate. No, that is not a typo.

RePOOPulate is a synthetic poop, which is a mixture of probiotics that can be transplanted into a person’s intestine to return it to a balanced bacterial makeup.

Although the treatments have been proven effective, there’s been some resistance to it’s becoming an acceptable practice. What a shocker.



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NEW YEAR'S SPECIALS

Get the computer that suits your needs!

Some places offer to sell you a similar computer, for cheaper.

So what sets us apart?

TbyD uses top-of-the-line parts in all our computers. AND all TbyD computers come with a **1-year 'Right Here' warranty** meaning you won't have to hand your computer over to a big box store for 6-8 weeks while they send it away to get it repaired.

We replace any defective part for you immediately, and WE deal with the manufacturer after.

We believe our customers' time means something!



Quad Core CPU
500GB Hard Drive
DVD-Writer

Windows 7 Home Premium
No Crapware!

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Add a wireless mouse & keyboard for only

\$35.00

Add 18.5 LG Flatron monitor for only

\$125.00

Want us to set it up for you?
We'll set up your computer and have it
ready to go

\$175.00

If this computer doesn't do it for you, let us know! We can custom-build a computer just for you.
We also sell laptops, computer accessories and software.

START THE NEW YEAR CLEAN!

Your computer should be cleaned every 6 months, to have it run smoothly and to the best of its ability.
We call this an "optimization", because it optimizes the computer.

Your computer will thank you!