

TechTips Newsletter

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Winnipeggers Hack ATM

Two 14 year olds in Winnipeg boys found an old operators manual for a Bank of Montreal ATM online, and decided to give it a try. They walked down to a local Safeway on their lunch hour and successfully managed to get the ATM into "operators mode".

The two students were not expecting the manual to be accurate, but all the sudden, it asked for a password. The password turned out to be a common "default password" guessed on the first try. Based on our knowledge of passwords, it was most likely "123456".

The students then ran to the nearest BMO to report their discovery, but were told that what they had done "wasn't really possible".

They ran back to the Safeway, returned the machine to operator mode again, and begin printing off documentation regarding the

amount of money currently in the machine, how many withdrawals that day, and how much it made off surcharges.

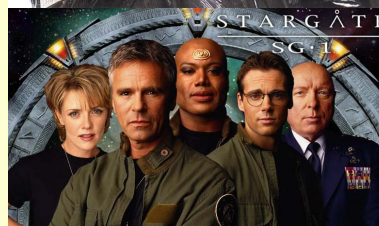
The two students also changed the ATM's greeting to "Go away. This ATM has been hacked", and changed the surcharge rate to \$0.01.

The boys returned to the bank, and showed the documentation, proving the ATM was hacked, and instead of laying charges on the two boys, the bank responded gratefully, even giving the boys a school note explaining their tardiness was due to assisting them with bank security.

BMO has confirmed that the bank is now taking steps to block unauthorized access to its machines, and said that the customer information, accounts, and contents of the machine were never at risk, and were secure.

Canadian Nerds.

With Canada day this month, we thought it would be fun to show off some of our nerdiest Canadian shows and creatons! Here are Nathon Fillion, Scott Pilgram, Kids in the Hall, Stargate, and of course, William Shatner!



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

Do you have experience with Technology by Design that you'd think other people would want to hear? How would you like to have lunch or dinner, on us?

Ask us how you can have your business promoted through us, and get your dinner too!

Want some more information? Call us at 204-800-3166, or email helpdesk@tbyd.ca!

WANT A "GAME OF THRONES" CHARACTER NAMED AFTER YOU?

In order to raise money for the "Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary" and "The Food Depot", George R.R. Martin, writer of Game of Thrones, decided to donate everything from signed maps of Westeros, handwritten thank you notes, a script of the first ever episode (signed by cast and crew), having breakfast with Martin, and even a tour of the sanctuary with Martin, all depending on the amount you are willing to donate to the cause.

With the donation of \$20,000, Martin says he will create a character in the series, just for you. The website states

"There is one male character and one female character available. You can choose your character's station in the world (lordling, knight, peasant, whore, lady, maester, septon, anything) and you will certainly meet a grisly death!"

Anyone wanting to donate to George R.R. Martin's cause can go to <https://www.prizeo.com/prizes/georgerrmartin>.

PERSONAL MARIO MAKER IN WORKS

After years of video game nerds wishing they could create their own version of Super Mario, Nintendo has decided that it is about time. In 2015, Wii U will release "Mario Maker", allowing users to create their own Super Mario levels, and play them through.

A simple, stripped down version was displayed by Nintendo at E3. You begin with an empty Mario level, and beginning to build out your platforming level is as easy as dragging items, terrain and characters down from the menu bar on the top of the screen. (You can also simply click an item, then click where you want it on the screen.)

The game then allows you to place enemies from the first Super Mario Bros. in your level, although you can tweak them a little bit more than that game allowed. You can put wings on a Hammer Brother and have him pop out of a green pipe, for example.

But this is where the design process begins, because you have to playtest. And this is part of the genius behind the Mario Maker editor. You can instantly switch between playing and editing with a single button press. So one second you're painting the screen with enemies; the next you're running and stomping on them. If the level isn't working the way you want it to, one more click and you're editing again, right where you left off.

There's more than that. Every time you play, then switch into editing, you can see a shadow trail of where Mario jumped and ran

during your last playtest. This makes it incredibly easy to tweak the distances and heights of your platforms, pits, and enemy placement. Let's say you want to create a platform that's just high enough for Mario to jump to. Try playing, and once you're back in the Edit mode you can see exactly where the apex of Mario's jump would be, and place a block right under it.

So far, there has been no word on how sharable the levels will be between users of the maker, but many of us are just excited to have a way to create our own version of Super Mario.



WANT SPIDERWEB UNDIES?

The act of running through spider webs is featured in nightmares all over the world, but did you know that spider silk is actually widely considered a “superfiber”?

Spider silk is stronger and lighter than most other fabrics, so it could be used in things like body armour, medical sutures and, oddly, underwear. In fact, the US military is experimenting with spider silk underwear to protect certain parts of the soldiers bodies from explosions. This is because silk does not melt onto skin when exposed to heat. It also resists penetration by finer particles like sand and dirt, which could keep wounds clean.

Until now, the main problem has been that mass production was not cost effective. However, a Michigan firm called Kraig Biocraft Laboratories, has brought us a step closer, all thanks to a genetically

engineered silkworm which is modified to produce spider silk.

Kraig Labs’ spider silk is produced by inserting specific spider genes into silkworm chromosomes. Then the worms (actually moths) produce threads nearly identical to spider silk. The company can vary the silk’s flexibility, strength, and toughness by moving around the DNA sequence.

Medical and military applications are where the money is, along with the opportunity to save lives. However, those markets will take years to reach fruition thanks to lengthy FDA and military approval processes. In the shorter term, the firm is apparently interested in making dress shirts and neck ties. The traditional silk clothing market is worth as much as \$5 billion per year.

TSA ON INSTAGRAM

If you’re brave, you might want to check the interesting Instagram account belonging to the American Transportation Security Administration.

If you’ve ever wondered what kind of ridiculous things are seized at airport checkpoints, this is the place to look. The feed is essentially a gallery of some of the craziest items people try to get past security checkpoints. There’s no shortage of material—the TSA claims an average of 40 firearms (often loaded) are seized at checkpoints every week. Nine-bladed super knife? Grenade? Everything you need to assemble a bomb? Yes, all that and more. Everything that’s seized is

photographed for posterity, if not the spectacle, and then shared on social media to show people what’s what.



“We’re just using a new mechanism to reach an audience with Instagram,” says TSA Press Secretary Ross Feinstein. “We’re not trying to make a statement that people are trying to do

anything nefarious with these items. We’re just trying to alert people that these are still prohibited items.”

In addition to the guns and other prohibited items, the TSA feed also features adorable bomb-sniffing dogs, spotlights various employees and calls out programs and promotions.

You can find the TSA account on Instagram at [instagram.com/tsa](https://www.instagram.com/tsa).

TechTip Postcard

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

JULY 2014

It's Time To Declare Freedom From Online Identity Theft

If you want to prevent your personal or business identity from being stolen by a cybercriminal, this report is a MUST-read!

This informational report outlines in plain, non-technical English common mistakes that many small business owners make with their computer and network security that puts their personal information and identity at risk of being stolen. It also further explains what identity theft is, and how you can prevent it from happening to you and your business.

You'll Discover:

- **The top 3 ploys used by online identity thieves** to easily gain access to your business and personal information, and how to avoid them.
- **10 sneaky e-mails used to steal your identity** that you should IMMEDIATELY delete if they land in your in-box.
- **One easy, surefire way to keep your network and computers safe** and secure from online thieves.
- **What you need to know about the NEW scams being used** to steal personal information via social media sites like Facebook.
- **Best practices to prevent you or your employees** from inadvertently giving away passwords and other "keys to the castle" to Internet criminals.



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Through August 31st!