

TechTips Newsletter

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"Tricorder" Competition

When Star Trek came out, viewers witnessed a device able to diagnose patients by merely sweeping over the surface of the patient's body, the Tricorder.

Today, a Canadian company and 20 other teams from around the world are competing by attempting to replicate Dr. McCoy's Tricorder for a \$10-million award from the non-profit XPrize Foundation.

Ethel goal of the Tricorder do petition is to create a lightweight, portable "doctor in the palm of the hand". This device should allow consumer to check vital signs and diagnose 15 different disorders, including type 2 diabetes, urinary tract infection, high cholesterol and HIV.

After scrutinizing the 21 teams' paper-based specifications in August, the XPrize Foundation

will select up to 10 to submit prototypes for testing by real patients.

"The winner will be the team whose technology most accurately diagnoses a set of diseases independent of a health-care professional or facility, and that provides the best consumer user experience with their device," the foundation says on its website.

Such an instrument could also be used by medical professionals in developing areas of the world with limited health-care resources.

The successful XPrize team was to be announced in September, 2015, but the foundation is considering whether to wait to name the winner in January, 2016, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the genesis of Star Trek.



Cooler kick- butt Dads.

Last month, we featured kick-butt Moms. This month, Dads take over! Here are our kick-butt dads!

Indiana Jones
Snr. (Indiana Jones)



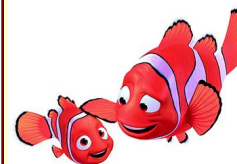
Big Daddy
(Kick Ass)

Darth Vader
(Star Wars)



Homer (The
Simpsons)

Vito Corleone
(The
Godfather)



Marlin (Finding
Nemo)

DOES YOUR WEBSITE... LACK?

Everyone knows we fix computers, but did you know we do websites too? That's right! You can have your favourite IT company help fix up your website. So,

we prevent extended down time, fix computers, and help your company run an online storefront!

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

FLAPPY BIRD 2 DUE IN AUGUST

In the April newsletter, there was an article about the possibility of Flappy Bird coming back. After the developer found that the game was highly addictive for players, and was causing problems in the users lives.

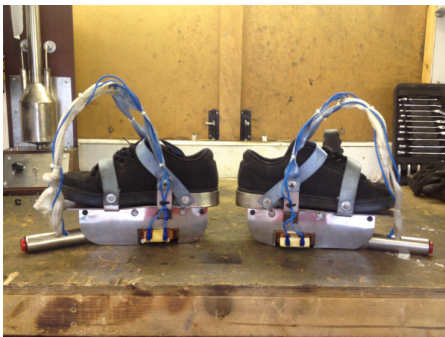
Since then the creator Dong Nguyen has publicly announced that the second version of the game will be out at the beginning of August. Like we reported in the April newsletter, he plans on having a message pop up every few games telling users to take a break. He also says the levels will not be as difficult, hoping

it will make the game less addictive, and playing the game with friends on a multiplayer mode will be an available option.

In a tweet by Nguyen, he stated "Flappy Bird: New Season will not be mine". He did not say who was developing the new version of the game, but only that it wasn't him. In a later tweet the same day, he did say he was developing another game, hoping it would take everyone's minds off of Flappy Bird.

WALKING ON THE CEILING A POSSIBILITY (ALMOST)

An X-Men fan has been inventing gadgets to mimic the powers the characters have. The British inventor Colin Furze, has invented magnetic shoes that allow him to walk on the ceiling of his garage via two metal bars.



In a youtube video posted by Furze, he explained that his invention used very strong magnets, which were ripped out of a microwave coil to save money, in order to have enough magnetic pull to support his body weight. He used two buttons attached to the magnets to turn the magnetic pull on and off, allowing him to control when he could move his legs and take a step.

Even with the help of the buttons controlling the magnetic pull, learning to walk with the device was a challenge. In

another YouTube video, Furze showed the challenge of learning to walk on his ceiling. The coordination of the loss of magnetic force and taking a step seems to be crucial, as is all sorts of strength.

This isn't the first X-Men gadget that Furze has invented. He had previously created auto-retractable Wolverine claws, which look beyond cool, but anyone who is in the least bit clumsy would injure themselves very easily.

CELL PHONE-BASED THERAPY

When you think of therapy, you probably think of the chaise lounges and notepads. Kids Help Phone is hoping to change that image. The 25-year-old organization now offers an instant messaging service which can be accessed through the Kids Help Phone app or by computer.

"Young people are very used to speaking through their phones and processing without speaking out loud," says Alisa Simon, vice-president of counselling services at Kids Help Phone.

The web-based chat is now available for teens four nights a week, from 6pm to midnight. This chat entails a one-on-one chat with one of Kids Help Phone counsellors, and has proven to be quite successful so far. According to the organization, within 15 minutes of opening up the chat, they are already taking a queue, and the queue remains until it is time to close up chat.

The average phone call lasts around 16 minutes, live chats typically last around 44 minutes, meaning the service costs more for Kids Help Phone to maintain. But the extra time is needed to find the information needed, which is easier to gather over the phone.

The Kids Help Phone number is 1-800-668-6868, and open 24 hours.

INSTAGRAM-BASED BUSINESS SHUT DOWN

An Instagram-based business which was selling and delivering alcoholic slushies, called Phrosties, in New York has been shut down. After the underground business became popular, even being reviewed by New York Magazine, the legality of the business became an issue.

New York Magazine described Phrosties as “pure sugar and grain alcohol. It tastes like Kool-Aid-meets-Red Bull, mixed with 150-proof Everclear.” Served in flavours like Blue Hawaiian, Dragonberry Colada, Irish Bomb, and Hero, the colourful \$10 / bottle libations would be ordered exclusively by

texting a phone number listed on a private Instagram account.



Within a few hours of your text, someone would be at your door with a cooler and all your Phrostie needs.

But the frozen, sweet, technicolor booze is “unregulated,” according to the State Liquor Authority, and the agency has launched an investigation.

Bill Crowley, the authority's director of public affairs commented “The SLA is looking into the illegal sale of this unregistered and potentially dangerous alcoholic drink by an unlicensed business.”

GOOGLE INNOVATING THE... VEHICLE INDUSTRY?

After teasing consumers for the past few months, Google has released an image of its driverless car prototype, and yes, it is exactly what it sounds like.

Looking like a large computer mouse, this car has no steering wheel, brake or gas peddle. The car uses sensors which can sense a car up to 2 yards away, and a GPS system to operate. The user inputs a destination when they first enter the car, and off it goes.

Of course, currently the car only travels up to about 25km an hour, and Google is still struggling to get the laws to accommodate their vehicles, so it won't be available to consumers anytime soon. Google says they are making 100 prototypes to test in California, which should be road ready next year.

The state of California recently announced that in order

for a self-driving car to be on the street, there must be two certified engineers sitting in the front seat in order to assume control in case things go awry.

Because the car relies on Internet connection to run and navigate, if the internet connection faltered, even if for a second, the vehicle would stop, even if it was in a bad position.

Another question with the car is the liability when a vehicle such

as this gets into an accident — would it be the fault of the passenger, the owner or the manufacturer?

Although there are still many concerns with the vehicle, it could still be considered beneficial when road ready, especially for those such as the disabled and the elderly.

There has been no comment yet from Google as to how much this new car might cost.



TechTip Postcard

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

JUNE 2014

If You Had An Employee That Worked Slow, Prevented You From Getting Work Done And Was A Constant Source Of Aggravation

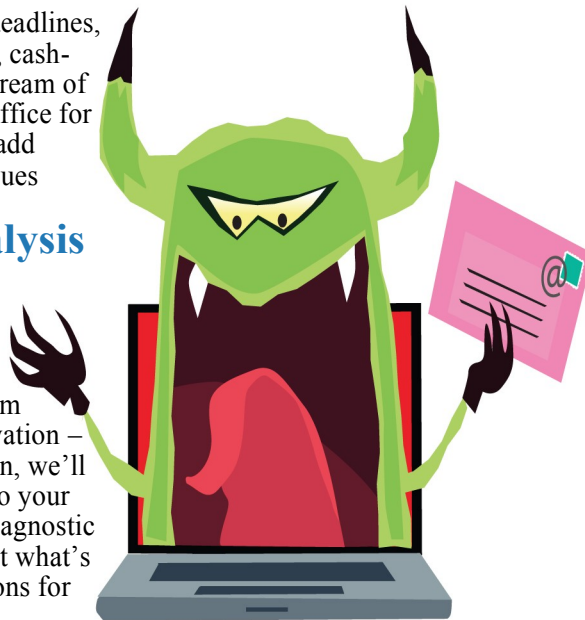
You'd FIRE Them

So Why Are You Still Tolerating That Slow, Buggy Computer That's Driving You Nuts?

You're beyond busy. Looming deadlines, endless to-do lists, complex projects, cash-flow problems and a never-ending stream of setbacks are just another day at the office for you. That's why you can't afford to add computer problems to your list of issues

Free Performance Analysis Solves Your Problems

If you have any IT problems – be it slowness, crashes, systems not working together or any other problem that causes you and your staff aggravation – give us a call. At no cost or obligation, we'll send a friendly, certified technician to your office to conduct a comprehensive diagnostic on your computer network to find out what's causing you problems and offer options for resolving it fast.



Why Hire Us? 3 Reasons...

1. We don't speak Geek-lish. We explain everything to you in plain, easy-to-understand language.
2. We use highly secure, proprietary software that allows us to access your PC or network (with your complete permission, of course!) right over the Internet, enabling us to diagnose and fix 94% of all computer problems instantly, on the spot. That means no more waiting around for a technician to show up and YOU can get back to work faster.
3. We fix all problems right the first time. We feel you shouldn't have to pay us to learn how to fix your network.

**Call now to schedule your
FREE Performance Analysis:
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