

TECH TIPS

Gifts for Geeky Dads

What to get for the geek-dad that has everything? Check out thinkgeek.com for some very *interesting* ideas.

Just a few of them:

1. **Star Trek Enterprise Pizza Cutter**—This promises to “boldly cut pizza where no man has cut before”. A pizza cutter in the form of the ‘famous’ NCC-1701 Enterprise ship from Star Trek (the original series, of course). And yes, it is an officially licensed Star Trek collectible.



2. **Zombie Family Car Decals**—Tired of those cheesy decals on the back of mini-vans? These decals promise to display “The real meaning of family”. “They are black and white and red all over, and include the whole gang.”



3. **Fly –Good-bye Bug Vacuum Gun**—“With a Fly-Goodbye Bug Vacuum Gun in your holster, you’ll be able to lay some smackdown on any bug you want.” And for those merciful geeks, the bugs are sucked into a cartridge, from which you can release them into the wild...or your boss’ office.



4. **Geek Dad: Awesomely Geeky Projects and Activities for Dads & Kids to Share.** For those wishing to bond over their geekiness, or simply to pass it on to the next generation. Now you can bond while making geeky crafts like a working lamp with LEGO blocks, turning any room into a spaceship, or making cyborg jack-o’-lanterns.



For the rest of the list, or to purchase any of the items mentioned, go to <http://www.thinkgeek.com/interests/dads/>

Photos courtesy of thinkgeek.com

Startup Company Raffles a Ticket to Space

Although no spaceflight companies have made a commercial flight, and it may not happen for many years, that day is approaching, and one startup company is getting in on the ground floor. “I Dream of Space”, a new startup company, is selling 25,000 space posters for \$10 each. Each poster comes with an entry for a chance to win a trip to outer space. The proceeds made from the posters, should cover a \$200,000 ride on Virgin Galactic’s SpaceShipTwo or a \$95,000 seat on XCOR Aerospace’s Lynx, plus some profit for the company, of course.

Company co-founder Reuben Metcalfe of New Zealand, states “Given the kind of progress we’re seeing with these companies, and the customers lining up, it’s going to happen soon. If companies continue building the way they are building, and we build a robust community, it’s going to pan out.”

Metcalfe states he’s already begun discussing several options with suborbital spaceflight companies. However he states his company needs to raise a \$20,000 deposit before they take him seriously, and when that happens, the companies still have to prove that they can routinely fly customers to suborbital altitudes and safely return them to the ground.

“I Dream of Space” has already attracted hundreds of poster-buying, astronaut-wanna-bes, and they hope to sell the remaining contest entries by the end of 2012. Metcalfe and his partners hope to stage similar opportunities in 2013 and 2014, depending on the success of the current endeavour.

For more information, or on how to buy your poster & chance to win a trip to space, check out their website at <http://www.idreamofspace.com/>.

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Congratulations to the Winner of the Trivia Question for coffee & donuts: Winnipeg International Writers Festival!

The Winnipeg Writers Festival was created in 1997 by three individuals from the Manitoba Writers’ Guild. Their goal was to create a week of literary events that featured some of the best writers around. This Festival has evolved greatly from being run by volunteers, to having Board of Directors and Full-time staff!



This Festival brings great writers and literature together with their readers, and showcases new writing from local and Canadian authors with a handful of International authors.

Currently in their 15th year, the annual festival, THIN AIR: The Winnipeg International Writers Festival, will be held September 21-29, 2012. The line-up for which will be released at the beginning of September.

Technology by Design is currently assisting them in finding the right monthly managed services and backup for them, along with hardware upgrades to their current system. Technology by Design helps the Winnipeg International Writers Festival keep tech-savvy, and help them to understand what they have and how to use it.

For further information about the Winnipeg International Writers Festival, please contact Perry Grosshans or Tavia Palmerscott at 927-7327, or visit their website at www.thinairwinnipeg.ca.

JUNE TRIVIA QUESTION:

Wil Wheaton is the author of “Just a Geek” and “Dancing Barefoot”. Among people who may be geeks, for which of the accomplishments below is Mr. Wheaton better known?

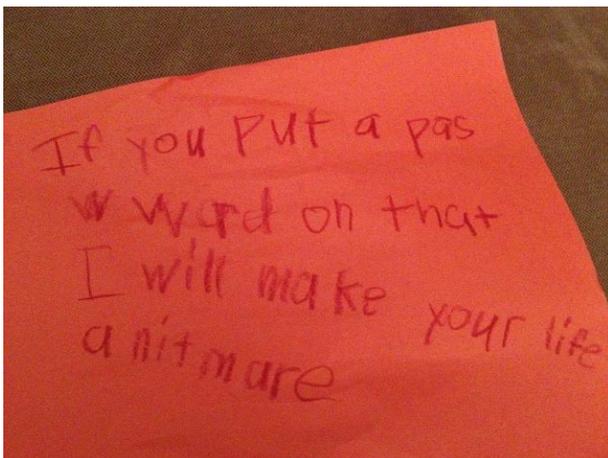
- The role of Ensign Wesley Crusher on “Star Trek: The Next Generation”
- Being the person inside the Chewbacca suit in the first three “Star Wars” movies
- Most prolific blogger on Slashdot.org (“News for Nerds, Stuff that Matters”)
- Cartoonist, creator of the wildly popular geek comic strip “User Friendly”.

Email your answer to: answer@tbyd.ca
for your chance to win coffee & donuts delivered to your door!

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 1800 other people!

A 7-Year Old Not To Be Reckoned-With

Posted to reddit this ominous note was reportedly left on the computer by his friend’s 7-year old sister for their parents. Check it out at <https://imgur.com/15uDU>. I, for one, would do what she says. If you don’t, you could end up with death threats spelled out on your fridge with ABC magnets, or your teddy bears strung up with silly string.



WHY THE BLOG?

AKA: DON'T WE HEAR FROM YOU ENOUGH?

In our geek-search to fix all things computer, we have found that our clients often have many of the same questions or concerns. We often don't have room in our monthly newsletter, or the newsletter simply doesn't come out often enough to address these frequent questions or concerns.

Check out the blog: tbyd.ca/blog

Foil Hat Not Included

You've heard all the warnings and suggestions on how to avoid having your Wi-Fi hi-jacked. However, if your Wi-Fi is still not secured, or if your password is...password, help is on the way!

Researchers from Institut Polytechnique Grenoble and the Centre Technique du Papier obviously had you in mind when designing their new handy-dandy, Wi-Fi-blocking wallpaper which they have called “Metapaper”.

Although Wi-Fi-blocking wallpaper is not a new concept, this is the first one that is reputed to be marketed to the commoners amongst us. The Finnish company Ahlstrom states that when they launch this product next year, they expect it to cost “equivalent to that of a classic mid-range cost wallpaper”.

Smartphones texting, calling, mobile data, etc. apparently work with the wallpaper, and only a handful of Wi-Fi frequencies are blocked.

The bad news is, if you just cover your walls with the wallpaper (what a novel idea!), Wi-Fi signals could leak out through the non-covered surfaces—namely your roof, floor and windows. You could cover those surfaces with the wallpaper too. However, if you're that worried, I don't think even coating the walls in Wi-Fi blocking paint (yes, this IS available!) prior to applying the wallpaper, or donning your foil hat will keep the mothership from finding your location.

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!

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