



Published monthly for Geeks and non-Geeks. Technology news and information (and other stuff...)



TRIVIA

How much did the world's most expensive chocolate egg sell for?



Answer: The 7,000 pound egg was created in 2012, and was sold at auction for \$10,000.



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YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT DOING THE SPANISH FLY...



In reality, it's not a fly at all. It's actually a member of the species of "blister beetles". And the bug's defensive secretion, cantharidin, has been used as an "aphrodisiac" since ancient times.

It doesn't actually work, unless your idea of sexy is dying a horrible death. Anger one of these guys, and it will release cantharidin, which is as powerful as cyanide. The best part, it has no antidote.

You don't have to worry though, unless you live in (or visit) Southern Europe.

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DYING LIGHT BUNDLE WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE

A special edition of the zombie-fighting game Dying Light includes a zombie-proof shelter, night vision goggles, survival parkour lessons, and adult diapers.



But it costs \$470, 000.

The makers of Dying Light, a zombie survival game, want one wealthy fan to have a gaming experience they won't likely forget. The "<u>My Apocalypse Edition</u>" is an over-the-top package, stuffed with zombie related goodies. It includes 4 signed <u>Xbox One</u> copies of the game itself, but that's not the best part.

The party starts with <u>zombie-survival parkour</u> lessons, so you can learn to escape the undead using nothing but your athletic body and the urban landscape. A life (?) -size zombie figurine is included, sure to thrill your spouse/roommates when they stumble into it in the middle of the night.

Dying Light is so confident in its nightmare-inducing nighttime gameplay that the special edition comes with night-vision goggles, and a stack of adult diapers. Another bonus: having your face skinned onto an infected Night Hunter character, so you can see yourself onscreen at your very worst.

But the true piece du resistance is a custom-built zombie-proof shelter. The lucky buyer can sleep soundly, confident in the shelter's ability to repel the infected. The shelter comes from <u>Tiger Log</u> <u>Cabins</u>, a company that has clearly spent effort on dreaming up cabins that can thwart an onslaught of the undead. Tiger unveiled a <u>zombie-proof log cabin design</u> that comes with a 10-year antizombie guarantee.

The one-off package is available from the <u>UK site Game</u> for about \$470, 300 CDN (£250, 000). You would have to be a crazy-rich Dying Light extreme super-fan to spend that much on this package, but it sure would be an interesting dinner party conversation piece!



THE FUTURE OF COMPUTING?



Then 19-year old Simon Tian from Montreal shocked the world in 2013 by taking on computer mega-giants Samsung and Sony. Like many startup companies, Tian's <u>Neptune Computer Inc</u>. turned to an online crowdfunding platform to raise funding for a full launch of its product—a smartwatch

'Neptune Pine'.

Tian's vision for a better smartwatch quickly gained popularity, as well as exceeding his crowdfunding goal of \$100,000. In just 24 hours Tian's crowdfounding campaign raised close to \$200,000, with still another 30 days to go on the campaign. He ended up raising over \$800,000CAD.



Neptune already released Hub and Pocket. Hub, a smartwatch powerful enough to run apps, take calls, and send messages. Pocket, a relatively dumb screen that fit in your pocket, much like a smartphone, but it was little more than an input device.

Now 20-year-old Simon's company Neptune launches what it calls "Suite", a group of devices to augment their recently released Hub. There's the Tab, a tablet with an attachable keyboard. There's also a dongle that will stream to your TV. Wireless earbuds you can wear around your neck, and which doubles as a charging cord.

It's all selling for the price originally announced for the Hub and Pocket: \$899US at retail, or a couple hundred less if you pre-order via <u>Neptune's Indiegogo campaign</u>. Their campaign has raised (at press time) \$767,698 of their \$100,000 goal. Yep, that 768% of their goal. And there is still 29 days left in their campaign.

Neptune has now revealed that the core technology making it all work is something called WiGig, a new wireless protocol that allows streaming from the Hub to the other devices at up to 7GB per second.



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PSSST....

WANNA BUY A USED SPY WEBSITE?



The names available suggest a parade of a C-List of website. There was "newjunk4u.com", "monster-ads.net", "coffeehausblog.com" and "suddenplot.com".

However, these sad-sounding domains were actually artful creations of the National Security Agency (NSA). They were fronts for distributing and controlling government malware around the world.

Those domains, and 109 others, came to light last month as part of the "Equation Group" report from anti-virus vendor Kaspersky. Researchers at Kaspersky identify 300 such domains, and <u>published</u> <u>113 of them</u>.

The NSA's malware domains always have been a closely guarded secret—it's the kind of direct, actionable information that can expose even old <u>cyber espionage operations</u>. Now the agency is in an awkward position: What should it do with these domains, now that their covers are blown? The domains were chosen to look legitimate, which means the U.S. government is effectively cyber squatting on a sizable portfolio of names like "newjunk4u.com" and "businessdealsblog.com" that are no longer useful for espionage, but potentially valuable for business.

So, how much would those domains be worth if the NSA liquidated them in a public auction, like any other disused government property? Sedo's Dave Evanson, a veteran domain name broker, wasn't impressed with the NSA's portfolio. The NSA used a lot of fake download sites, ad networks, and national technology blogs in its espionage, which isn't going to have a lot of appeal for the massmarket.

However, on second look, Evanson spots domains with some resell potential. "technicalconsumerreports.com", once used as an infection platform for NSA malware, might be worth something to a technology news outlet, and might go for "a few thousand dollars, and maybe as high as 10 or 15". The name "xlivehost.com" formerly a command-and-control server for the NSA's most sophisticated known malware suite, EquationDrug, would make a good porn site today. Evanson reports it may have some value "I would rather been selling it 15 years ago than now. But it's got value, maybe 5 to 7 grand...Sex.com, we sold that for 13 million."

QUOTES FOR GEEKS, BY GEEKS

"Michael, I did nothing. I did absolutely nothing, and it was everything that I thought it could be."

> Peter Gibbons, Office Space





Obama reads mean Tweets about himself, and talks about everything under the sun on Jimmy Kimmel Live. Click: <u>HERE</u>

HEALTH CENTRE IS HAPPY TO SEE YOU!



A Canadian Health Centre has gone viral. Not for its exceptional care, or for new strides made in medical research. It's due to its uncanny resemblance to a naked man.

From the air, the Newmarket Health Centre, located at 465 Eagle St., appears to be shaped like a man spread-eagled, and anatomically correct.

The building, which was constructed in 1951, serves patients, seniors and veterans in need of long– and short-term care. The Health Centre has 132 long-term care beds, and a 24-hour nursing staff.

The building is made up of 4 wings which extend from a central section. These appear to be arms and legs extending from a torso. There is a small square-shaped area at the top of the 'torso', which appears to be the head. There is also a rectangular section that protrudes between the 'legs', which is actually the entrance to the Health Centre.

The Health Centre has made headlines throughout Canada, and has even been fodder for jokes in the U.K.

Some wonder if this is the STD Clinic, some wonder where the vasectomy department is, while others wonder how the architect kept a straight faced through the planning meetings.

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Amelia Island 2015 CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

EXTRAVAGANT CLASSIC CAR AUCTION



Held last weekend, for classic car aficionados, the <u>Amelia Island</u> <u>Concours d'Elegance</u> Is one of the premier car shows in the U.S.

Held at the gorgeous Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island in Northeast Florida, the yearly car show includes one-of-a-kind vehicles competing for prestigious awards, as well as special driving experiences, shopping and test drives for wealthy attendees, and seminars held by automotive experts held seminars.



A silent auction raised money for the non-profit Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance Foundation. Items in the silent auction included autographed automobilia, original paintings, celebrity



autographed items, gift certificates from local and international destinations, fine jewelry, and collectible watches. In 2014, the Foundation topped \$2.5 million in charitable giving. Their charities included Community Hospice, Spina Bifida of Jacksonville, The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, the Nassau County and Fernandina Beach Shop With Cops Christmas programs, and Micah's Place Domestic Violence Center.

The centerpiece of the show is the RM Sotheby's automobile auction that boasts over 90 blue-chip

automobiles. This auction sees many classics (and a few newer models) up for bid. Proceeds of many items, including this year's priciest car, a <u>1-of-7 1960</u> <u>Ferrari 400 Superamerica SWB Cabriolet</u> which went for \$6,380,000, go to various charities.





Sponsors of this black-tie event, included The Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island, Mercedes-Benz, RM Sotheby's, Porsche, BMW, Lamborghini, Jaguar, Maserati, and Ferrari of Central Florida, to mention just a few.

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AN URGENT SECURITY WARNING

FOR BUSINESSES RUNNING

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If your business or organization is currently running either Microsoft Server 2003 or Exchange 2003

on any servers in your office, you need to know about a dangerous security threat that must be addressed <u>very soon</u>.

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This means any business or organization with this operating system still running will be completely exposed to serious hacker attacks aimed at taking control of your network, stealing data, crashing your system and inflicting a host of other business-crippling problems you do NOT want to have to deal with.

This is such a serious threat that the **U.S. Department Of Homeland Security has issued an official warning to all companies still running this operating system,** because firewalls and antivirus software will NOT be sufficient to completely protect your business from malicious attacks or data exfiltration. Running Server 2003 will also put many organizations out of compliance.

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