

Phone: 204-800-3166

Email: [marketing@tbyd.ca](mailto:marketing@tbyd.ca)[www.itthatworks.ca](http://www.itthatworks.ca)

## TechTips

Technology news, information and interesting stories.  
Published monthly for Geeks and non-Geeks.

### Pixar Animation Needs Our Award-Winning Backups!



Think you don't need backups? That's what the animation giant, Pixar Animation, thought too. Then they almost lost all of [Toy Story 2](#).

Ever flush the toilet, then realized you dropped something irreplaceable in it? In your stomach, all you could do was watch the toilet flush. Seemingly the longest flush ever. And the whole time hoping whatever you dropped didn't go down with the rest of it.

That's the feeling that employees at [Pixar Animation](#) had. Through a simple, easy, human error. An employee just going through the motions at the end of the day, pushes a [wrong button](#)...

First Woody disappeared, hat, then boots, then entirely. Then the whole Toy Story 2 gang disappeared, one-by-one, off the disc drive. It would take 20-30 people, working for a solid year to replace what they just lost in approximately 20 seconds.

They then breathed a sigh of relief. Backups. They had backups. Whew! However, when they checked—their backups had failed for the last month, and no one had noticed.

Thanks to the movie's producer, a working mom that sometimes worked from home, a complete copy of the animation was on her computer at home.

Let this be a lesson to all of us:

**If it's important BACK IT UP!**

### She Won't 'Shake It Off'

Taylor Swift may write some fluffy, catchy tunes, but don't let those fool you. She's a sharp entrepreneur.



The 25-year-old singer/songwriter has an estimated net worth of some \$220 million, and is making smart moves to keep it coming!

Swift's 5th studio album '[1989](#)', sold 4 million copies in the U.S. ...in its 12th week of release. She's trademarked song lyrics "Party like it's 1989", "This sick beat", "Nice to meet you. Where you been?", "Could show you incredible Things", and "Cause we never go out of style".

Taylor makes her music available to stream online through [TIDAL](#), a music service with a monthly fee of \$19.99 (bought by [Jay Z for \\$56 million](#)).

She took an Instagram shot of herself in a bikini, so that the paparazzi couldn't cash in with their pictures of her in Maui. She also bought porn-site domain names "TaylorSwift.porn" and "TaylorSwift.adult".

She's also made over \$33 million from endorsements with [Diet Coke](#), [CoverGirl](#), [Keds](#), [Sony](#), [Elizabeth Arden](#), [I.e.i Jeans](#), and American Greetings. She is social-media savvy, with 70.3 million Facebook fans, 55 million Twitter followers, and 25 million followers on Instagram.

At a ripe old age of 25, she owns \$86 million worth of real estate, including a waterfront mansion in Rhode Island, a Nashville penthouse condo, and a 3-bedroom house in Beverly Hills. Oh, and a Nashville estate for her parents.

At 25, I think I owned a used car.



### Chess, Anyone?

What is art?

The [Oxford Dictionary](#) defines art as: “The expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.”

This...I’m not sure fits into either description. Maybe this next one:

“A person with an antisocial personality disorder, manifested in aggressive, perverted, criminal, or amoral behavior without empathy or remorse...tend to lack normal human emotions such as guilt. They are also often highly intelligent and skilled at manipulating others.”

That’s the definition of a [psychopath](#).

That best describes the ‘artist’ that sells her ‘art’ on [Etsy](#). What is her art? She poses dead mice as pop culture icons.

She goes by the handle “[The Curious 13](#)” on Etsy, and



states she specializes in “delightfully deceased taxidermy”. What’s more disturbing...her unyieldingly loyal customer base, and glowing reviews..”These mice are by far the most hysterical in my

collection.” In. Her. Collection. Anyone else’s hair on the back of their neck standing up?

You can get everything from Mr. T for \$64.57 to ‘The Walking Dead’ crew for \$96.85, to a full chess set at a mere \$710.23.

Oh, and she takes requests...

### SnapPower Turns Your Outlet Into a USB Charger

It’s a problem reflective of the times...too many gadgets, and not enough charging stations. Smartphones, tablets, and other devices competing for outlet space, which means something always gets left uncharged.

A new [Kickstarter campaign](#) hopes to change that. The SnapPower Charger cover plate transforms an ordinary outlet into a USB charging station.



It comes in 2 styles, and 3 different colours, and are compatible with both standard duplex and décor outlets that have terminals.

While there are similar product already available, the SnapPower leaves them in the dark ages, with its user-friendly design.

To install simply remove the old outlet wall plate, and replace it with the SnapPower Charger. No messing around with electrical wires, and perfect for renters who can take it with them when they move out.

Both outlets remain open and available while you charge your devices. The USB port uses ‘power prong technology’ which draws power from the screws on the side of the outlet.

The SnapCharger cover plate will charge most standard electronics. However, due to its 1-amp charging, it may take longer than usual to charge larger electronics, such as a tablet.

The Kickstarter campaign blew past its initial goal of \$35,000 within 1 hour. At time of publication, it had solicited more than \$450,000 in pledges from more than 10,600 backers, with 42 days still left to go in the campaign.

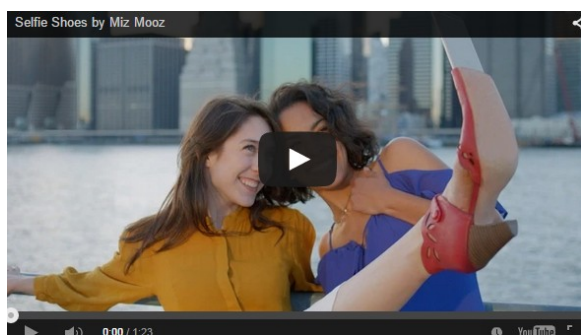
Creator Jeremy Smith also had a successful previous campaign with the [SnapRays Guidelight](#), which raised almost \$500,000.



### Maxwell Smart Would Love These Shoes!

By now, everyone is familiar with the [Selfie Stick](#)—that goofy-looking stick that, by affixing your smartphone to the end of it, allows you to take wider-angled selfies. Some while on the edge of a cliff, hanging over the subway rails, and other equally stupid places.

Which led to the [banning](#) of said selfie stick.



Enter the Selfie Shoes. Ladies, simply insert your smartphone into a docking port on the shoe, and take a photo by lifting a leg and tapping the inside sensor with a toe.

And the best part? Unlike the Selfie Stick, you don't have to use your arm, so both hands are free to be in the picture!

Priced at \$199 U.S./pair, they're sure to be a hit.

Good thing it was just an April Fool's Day prank from New York City-based women's shoe retailer [Miz Mooz](#).

**Technology by Design**

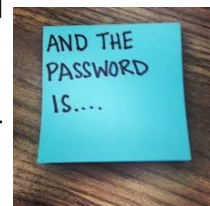
REBUILD  
REFURBISH  
REUSE

Affordable & Reliable

Microsoft REGISTERED SOLUTIONS Windows 1-204-800-3166

### Build a Better Password

In spite of CyberAttacks several times a week, nearly [65% of people](#) use the same password over and over again. Using the same password for banking as for their Amazon account. And, if you read our [blog](#), you know that most people use really [weak passwords](#).



Put those together, and you've got a recipe for HackerAttacks. And breaches [cost](#) more than privacy—some small businesses can pay up to \$200,000 to fix whatever the hacker broke.

Strategies To Build Better Passwords:

1. Create different passwords for all your social media (Facebook, Twitter), apps (delivery services, online dating), email, banking (don't use the same PIN for all of your cards). AND change them all, every 6 months.
2. If you're storing your passwords on your computer in a file, make sure not to label that file "Passwords". And take down the post-it stuck to your monitor with your password on it. Under your keyboard isn't a secret hiding place either. (yes, I know all the tricks!).
3. If you can't remember your passwords, look into a password manager. [LastPass](#), [1Password](#), [PasswordBox](#), are all good options.
4. If a password is easy to remember, it's easy to hack. Forget using "12345", "admin", and the ever-favorite "password". If you can't think of one, use a password generator.
5. Dream a little. Instead of using mixes of letters & numbers, think of phrases, mnemonics, the best concert you went to, your favorite vacation spot. The more personal and unique, the harder to hack.
6. Look to relief in the future. The average person has to remember a minimum of 10 passwords, not including PINs for your bank/credit cards. Soon [technology](#) will advance enough to allow you to log into your accounts using skin, fingerprints, voice recognition, or heartbeat.



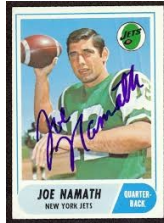
## Motivational Quotes From Sports Legends

***"Somewhere behind the athlete you've become and the hours of practice and the coaches who have pushed you is a little girl who fell in love with the game and never looked back...play for her."***

Mia Hamm, Award-Winning Professional Soccer Player

***"If you aren't going all the way, who go at all?"***

Joe Namath, Hall of Fame Football Quarterback



***"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."***

Michael Jordan, Basketball icon

***"In baseball and in business, there are three types of people. Those who make it happen, those who watch it happen, and those who wonder what happened."***

Tommy Lasorda, Hall of Fame Baseball Player and Manager

***"There may be people that have more talent than you, but there's no excuse for anyone to work harder than you do."***

Derek Jeter, Longtime Yankees Shortstop



***"It isn't the mountains ahead to climb that wear you out; it's the pebble in your shoe."***

Muhammad Ali, World Heavyweight Champion boxer

***"The more difficult the victory, the greater the happiness in winning."***

Pele, Brazilian soccer legend

***"If you have everything under control, you're not moving fast enough."***

Mario Andretti, World Champion Racing Driver

## 3-D Printer Gives 7-Year-Old Girl New Hand



Faith Lennox, a normal 7 year-old girl. Very active, outdoorsy, plays softball, and loves surfing with her dad on the weekends. Her dream—to be a pro surfer like her hero [Bethany Hamilton](#). Hamilton lost her arm in shark attack. Faith was born with a congenital abnormality, '[compartment syndrome](#)', and her left arm was amputated below the elbow when she was 9 months old.

She had tried traditional prosthetics, but grew out of them, and the insurance company wouldn't pay for more. She tried other, cheaper, ones but they were too clunky, heavy, and difficult to use. So, for most of her 7 year old life, she's simply adapted. She learned to do most things one-handed, like wash dishes and braid her hair (she used her teeth).

Her mom Nicole never stopped searching for a better arm for Faith. Her search lead her to the [Lucky Fin Project](#), a nonprofit that assists parents whose children are missing limbs. A volunteer at Lucky Fin told her about [e-Nable](#), another volunteer network that helps kids and adults who need prosthetic arms and hands, build or acquire them through 3-D printing.

E-Nable reports they have united over 4,000 individuals in over 30 countries. Together, they have built 1,000 hands for 700 families, offer free, open-source 3-D printing design files for prosthetics on e-Nable's that anyone can download and customize.

Nicole put Faith on a waiting list at e-Nable, then heard about a local 3-D printing studio, [Build It Workspace](#) who, after tweaking the e-Nable designs, built Faith a new arm. A volunteer at Build It Workspace, along with design assistance from California State University, saved Faith's family over \$5,000 in design fees. The newly made prosthetic cost the family \$50.

Now Faith rides her bike, her new hand triumphantly holding the handlebars.