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# TechTips

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

### Technology by Design's New Logo!



A couple of months ago, we sent out an email to all our clients, requesting their help in choosing a new logo.

### Why did we do this?

Since we opened our 'doors', Technology by Design has grown and evolved into the different, and very exciting, business that it is today. And we felt that a new logo was just the thing we needed to project this growth and change. And, because our clients are the reason for this growth and change, we asked for your help in picking our logo.

By an overwhelming majority, the above new logo was chosen!

We like the new logo.

### It makes us feel like 'superheroes' for your computer network!

Since we changed the look of our logo, we felt that a complete overhaul of our website (<a href="www.itthatworks.ca">www.itthatworks.ca</a>) and emails were in order.

### Our website now includes the following features:

- About TbyD: Who is TbyD; Why Choose TbyD; 16 Things We Do Better;
   Your Computer Guy: A Checklist to Know if You Should Switch I.T. Providers
- <u>Products and Services</u>: Business Services; Services; Products—A description of all the products and services we offer
- <u>Testimonials</u>—What our clients really think about us!
- Blogs: ALERTS—Past & present CyberSecurity Alerts; FAQ; How-To Videos
- Newsletters: An archive of past & present issues of our monthly TechTips Newsletter
- <u>Reviews</u>: Reviews of some of the latest usable technology. Reviews by a fellow non-geek, so you know if you can actually use it!
- Media: Email Red Flags—What to look for in suspicious emails; Free E-Books; Disaster Prevention
  Planning Kit; Free Reports
- Contact Us: Contact Us; Quick Support—Need us now? This will help!

Let us know what you think!

Email: marketing@tbyd.ca



## Don't Ask Siri about 9/11...Please

The Regina, SK police Service released a request for assistance from the public. No, it's not for an unsolved murder. They are asking people not to ask <u>Siri</u> about 9/11.



The request was necessary after numerous messages went viral on social media about asking "Siri" to place a phone call. The messages on twitter, Facebook and other social media prompted people to "Say 9/11 into Siri and you'll be amazed", or "When you say 9/11 to Siri, her response is hilarious".

The response wasn't hilarious. Siri's response was to phone 9-1-1, accessing a 9-1-1 Communications Officer, who answers the call with "9-1-1...where is your emergency?" At that point, most people that were tricked into phoning 9-1-1, hung up.

However, the Communications Officer is obligated to call the phone owner back to establish if there is indeed an emergency. Without more information, the 9-1-1 Officer is unable to tell whether the 9-1-1 call is real or a prank. The process of re-establishing contact can involve several tries, and can tie up 9-1-1 resources that could be required for a <u>real</u> emergency. If a person misleads police and causes them to enter into an investigation, this could result in criminal charges.

The Regina Police Service was forced to make the public appeal after an unusually high number of 9-1-1 hang-up calls to the 9-1-1 Communications Centre at the end of June. The Police Service asked people to be aware of the consequences of this latest social media fad. Fortunately, there were no real 9-1-1 emergencies where help was delayed by this.

Please be a good citizen, and DON'T ask Siri about 9/11.

### **Amazon Turns 20!**

Among them were the following:

@LisaByfG wanted to feel the burn with Jane Fonda:





@Je4nJall78 bought this, claiming it was for her "music students".

@mirandakatz bought a ...smurf

Buy it Again

hat???





@trykael bought a scent & light alarm clock...

But, I think by far this is the most disturbing order by @fwwsc:



#### Check it out at:

https://twitter.com/hashtag/worstamazonorder?
src=hash



## THESE FUTURISTIC CAR TIRES NEVER GO FLAT

Since the invention of the automobile, it has advanced immensely. Safety, fuel, efficiency, price—they've all had dramatic improvements. However, tires haven't had the same dramatic revolution. Sure, they've had advanced compounds to optimize fuel economy and traction in the snow...but what more can you do to a tube of rubber?

<u>Hankook Tire</u> is redefining how we see tires. The South Korean tire manufacturer has been developing a non-pneumatic tire. They first revealed the concept in 2013, when it was <u>one integrated unit</u> combining tire and rim.

Hankook Tire has now completed initial testing on its fifth-generation airless tire, the "iFlex". Unlike previous versions, this iFlex are designed to mount onto a traditional rim, making it compatible with current vehicles.

These tires do not require any air pressure, instead relying on a new type of eco-friendly material, which the company slyly refuses to indentify by name. Geometric shapes built into the material provide bounce and springiness normally provided by air pressure.

Not to be outdone, <u>Bridgestone</u> is also developing an airless tire that resembles a <u>psychedelic spirograph</u>. A company called <u>Resilient Technologies</u> is also getting into the race, with a <u>prototype</u> designed for wheeled military vehicles.

Hankook would not predict when the tires would be available for purchase by the public.

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### **TechTips**



### **GLAMPING REACHES NEW HEIGHTS**

"Glamping": Glamorous camping; luxury camping pairs destinations with the intimacy of camping, and the world of luxury travel.

It's become the new camping for the millennials that can't quite let go of their creature comforts. Not done by outdoor types that climb mountains, glamping is usually done by young professionals, who have some expendable cash.

However, these cliff-hanging <u>hotel rooms</u> take glamping to a whole new level...literally.

The Skylodge Suites, by Natura Vive travel company, are 3 prism-like cabins made from aerospace aluminum, suspended over the Sacred Valley of Cuzco, Peru. Although they look simplistic, these things are fairly self-containing, with four beds, a dining area, and a private bathroom. Each pods is also decked out with solar panels to power the lamps, down pillows, gourmet meals, and a guide to ferry you to and from the base of the mountain.

The prices match the 400 foot height, however, at \$1,000/night.

These suites are very similar to <u>Airbnb's</u> recent <u>penthouse apartment pop-up</u> in Oslo, Norway.

### **COMMODORE IS BA..ACK!**

The object of many 40-somethings' favorite after-school past-times. The name that helped usher in the PC in it's infancy.

<u>Commodore</u> was a huge company in the mid-80's, a leader in personal computers. They shipped thousands of Commodore 64 desktops daily. The Commodore 64 holds the Guinness record for the single biggest-selling computer ever (they sold over 17 million of them).



Commodore's fame and wealth was not sustainable, and the company went bankrupt in 1994.

It's back...with a smartphone. Created by two Italian entrepreneurs, the <u>PET</u> and its custom Android build include 2 emulators, so owners can enjoy old C64 and Amiga games.



Although it shares its name with Commodore's other iconic PC, it shares little else. It's well-built, with an aluminum frame and interchange-

able polycarbonate covers, has a 5.5 inch display screen made of <u>Gorilla Glass 3</u>, and has dual-SIM 4G connectivity. The front camera is 8 megapixels, with an 80-degree wide angle lens, and can be operated with the dedicated shutter button on the right side of the case.

The phone has custom functions such as an implementation of Daydream (the Android feature that lets you choose what info is on display while charging), and system gestures that let you interact with the phone by shaking, flipping, or waving at it. There is also a guest mode.

The PET comes in 2 versions, a light one (approx \$300US) with 16GB storage and 2GB RAM, and a regular one (approx \$365US) with 32GB storage and 3GB RAM.