

www.itthatworks.ca

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

## Hack Attacks On The Rise!

The amount of Canadian businesses that are being hacked (or attempted to hack) are on the rise. Protect yourself, your computer and/or network, your data/information, and your money!

MTS (Manitoba Telephone Systems) reports that there is an increase in hackers hitting phone systems in Manitoba. Hackers are targeting companies that PBX phone systems, and charging hundreds of thousands of dollars in long distance charges to their phone bill.

Too many companies, and employees, are leaving themselves open for hacking by not changing the 'default' password that comes with your phone voice mail. Default passwords are widely used, and easy to guess ("1234" being a common one). It takes 60 seconds to change your password, and to protect your company/ employer from being hacked.

And if you don't change your password, or enforce password changes within your company, good luck arguing with the phone company to get those charges reversed...

If you want more information on how hackers do this, or what you can do to prevent your phone system from being hacked, check out <u>ALERT: Phone System Hackers</u>.

To see all our CyberSecurity ALERTS, go to: <a href="http://tbyd.ca/alerts/">http://tbyd.ca/alerts/</a>

Ask How We Can Save Your Computer Network From the Evils of CyberCriminals!



1-204-800-3166 www.itthatworks.ca In Italian, the Death Star is called "Morte Nera". This translates to English as "Black Death", another name for the bubonic plague.

DID YO



#### Face-Slapping Alarm Clock Refuses to Snooze



D-I-Y gets a rude awakening with this alarm clock by selfproclaimed professional maker and robots enthusiast Simone Giertz.

The Wake-Up Machine is a D-I-Y wall-mounted robot that gets positioned above your head. When the alarm goes off, a rubber arm whips around & slaps you. It continues to slap you until you get out of bed & out of the way.

Giertz admits to some potential hazards to the alarm clock—her hair got tangled up in the arm during the demo. A moment she describes as "more humiliating than painful."

You can check out the build process in her video.

**iPhone Bacon Alarm Clock** 

Now you can wake up & smell the bacon every day, without your cholesterol skyrocketing. No, you don't have to get a personal cook. What you do need is a bacon alarm clock.



There are actually 2 parts to the Oscar Mayer bacon alarm clock/publicity stunt. First, you need a free iPhone app called <u>Wake Up & Smell the Bacon</u>. The 2nd part is a small device that plugs into the headphone jack of your iPhone (or iPad, etc).

When the alarm goes off, the app changes to a video of cooking bacon, the gadget spews bacon scent into the air, and a soothing voice informs you about bacon-y wonders.

Check out the youtube video here.

This Woman is Happy Because: a. She just won the lottery; b. She found out that Miss Piggy has her own Facebook page; or c. She just hacked into your computer.

During a 2015 survey of 58 U.S. companies, it was found that 97% of respondents had experienced malware attacks.

1-204-800-3166

39% of the respondents cited business disruption as the most costly consequence of a targeted cyber attack on their business.

All December, Receive \*FREE Core Security Package With Any Computer Purchase! \*Free for 1 year after purchase





Phone: 204-800-3166 Email: marketing@tbyd.ca www.itthatworks.ca

# **TechTips**



#RoarBacon

Everything is better with bacon. Eggs. Creamed Corn. And St. Louis Blues.

Nov. 14th, just minutes after David Backes tied the game at 5-5, the Blues' Instagram account stated "Well that was something. #OurBlues roar bacon with three second period goals to tie the game 5-5. #STLvsCHI."

They meant to say "roar back", but autocorrect strikes again. Soon #RoarBacon was a trending topic on Twitter, as well as a new breakfast item at Scottrade Center, on t-shirts in the Blues team store, and a new motto for the team.

### **Rolling Stones Technology-Challenged**



Their capacity for partying might be unlimited, but their knowledge of electronics, not so much.

According to American website

TMZ.com, management for the band issued a list of the band's requirements to every hotel the band stayed at during their recent U.S. tour. The leaked list included a never-ending flow of alcohol and cigarettes, butlers on hand 24 hours/day, blacked-out windows, and...written instructions on how to use all the electronics—from DVD players to air conditioning.

Previous years' requests included a snooker table, HP sauce, shepherd's pie, their rooms to be adorned with a "Casablanca lily and weeping eucalyptus arrangement", and satellite tv in order to follow cricket.



## Cheaper Prosthetic Arms Let Kids Become Superheroes

Soon child amputees will be able to have their very own Iron Man, Star Wars, or "Frozen"-themed bionic prosthetic arms.

<u>Open Bionics</u>, a Bristol, England-based company is part of <u>'Techstars Disney Accelerator</u>. This is a startup accelerator that gives a small group of companies access to the creative experts and resources of The Walt Disney Company to build new Disney-inspired things that make an impact in the fields of entertainment and technology. Through this program, Open Bionics used

Open Bionics uses 3D printing technology to make bionic hands for amputees at a fraction of the cost of traditional prosthetics. The three Disney models above will be available in 2016 for approximately \$500.







## UBER ATTEMPTS SMOOTHER PICKUP THROUGH COLOUR-CODING

The endlessly controversial company <u>Uber</u> is helping people find their rides. The popular ride-hailing company <u>an-</u> <u>nounced</u> last week that they are experimentally rolling out LED strips on drivers' windshields to help riders identify their pickups. The first city to receive the experimental roll-out— Seattle.

The strips of light, simply called 'SPOT', aim to reduce wait

times and to make it easier for Uber customers to find their rides in dense traffic, and in the dark. The long, skinny light strips are available in a plethora of colours (blue green, orange, pink, purple or yellow), and are directly applied to windshields.

**TechTips** 

When a rider requests an Uber pickup, she is paired with a SPOT-enabled driver. Using a colour wheel within the Uber app, she then chooses the driver's light strip will display. When the driver arrives for pickup, the light strip glows in the selected colour. The riders can also hold up their phones to display the matching light strip colour to help drivers locate their pickup.

