

Fishing (Phishing) Season Opens!



Phishing: The attempt to acquire sensitive information (eg. Usernames, passwords, credit card, financial), and sometimes (indirectly) money, via email, by scamming the user by masquerading as a legitimate company or trustworthy entity. An email fraud scam method in which the perpetrator sends out legitimate-looking email in an attempt of information or identity theft.

Spear-Phishing: A targeting email scam with the sole purpose of obtaining unauthorized access to sensitive data. Unlike phishing scams, which are broad, scatter-shot attacks, spear-phishing hones in on a specific group or organization. The intent is usually to steal intellectual property, financial data, trade or military secrets, and other confidential data/information. Victims are 4-5 times more likely to fall for spear-phishing email scams than normal phishing scams.

Many businesses have fallen victim to phishing, especially in the past year. A variety of malware and ransomware are spread through phishing/spear-phishing. You can't avoid it altogether, BUT you CAN give your company a fighting chance.

In these times of belt-tightening & chopping unnecessary expenditures, I.T. is often the first thing on the chopping block. After all, your computers work "good enough". This is what many CyberCriminals are counting on. By cutting I.T., you're also cutting company-wide security. You might as well just give them the keys to the building! Services provided by an I.T. company, are often customizable to your business and budget needs.

We often hear, "the guy who does my home computer is pretty good, I'll just use him...". That's great...IF your company has the exact same needs as your home does. Business-focused I.T. companies, like Technology by Design, likely started providing services to both home and business users. BUT found that the needs were so very different, and decided to specialize and focus on individualized needs of businesses.

Have your company I.T. looked after by business I.T. experts that specialize in business needs, and doesn't waste your valuable time fixing cellphone screens.

Think about it...



Humanoid High School Enrollment Increases

Being the new kid in school is never easy. And usually having visible differences from your classmates make you an easy target for bullies.

A high school in Japan is about to receive a [new student](#) named Pepper. The reason this is newsworthy...Pepper's actually a humanoid robot. [Pepper](#) was developed by Japanese corporation [SoftBank Robotics](#), and was intended primarily for customer service in banks and shops. The first Pepper was [tested](#) at a cellphone store in Tokyo's Omotesando shopping district. In [November 2015](#), 1,000 Pepper units were sold out, and orders had to be temporarily stopped until production could catch up with demand.



Although Pepper already has impressive language skills (he speaks both Japanese and English), he will mostly take part in English classes. Though the school has informed Pepper he can also visit other classes and activities. Teachers believe that learning along with Pepper, will be a positive experience for students, and encourage desire to learn new information.

Pepper was successfully enrolled, and will study alongside human students at Hisashi High School in Waseda, Fukushima Prefecture. Upon hearing about his successful application, Pepper stated "I never thought that I would be accepted into a human school." He also promised to "try my best."



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Don't Let Your Company Become 'The Catch of the Day'...



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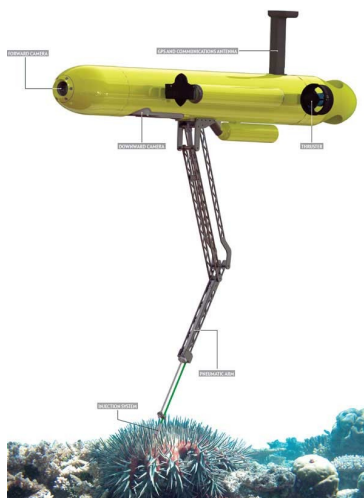
Zombie Infestation Reported off the Coast of Australia



Crown-of-Thorns starfish are known as “the zombies of the sea”. However, instead of braaaaains, these zombies eat coral. Off the coast of Australia, infestations of these zombies are damaging the Great Barrier Reef at an alarming rate.

Similar to ‘real’ zombies, these starfish will not die even if cut in half. If that wasn’t bad enough, if the starfish is injured, the starfish has a survival mechanism that helps it to separate and regenerate before an injured portion can affect the entire starfish. The only way to kill one, is to dismember it completely, or to inject it with bile salts (which are poisonous to them).

Enter “COTSbot”. An underwater droid, COTSbot has been in development since 2014, and identifies and assassinates the starfish autonomously. The droid uses an acoustic sensor to navigate the reef, and a camera to identify its prey from afar, with an accuracy of 99%.



Matthew Dunbabin, the droid’s inventor, states, “It processes information in real time and takes action.” When it zeroes in on its target, 5 thrusters enable the droid to hover in place as it injects the poisonous bile salts through a vision-guided articulating arm.

Unlike a human diver, the droid can work safely in rough seas for eight hours at a time...and doesn’t require a paycheck at the end of a shift.

Think this can be modified to help the crew of “[The Walking Dead](#)”?

‘Standing Wheelchair’ Increases Independence



The Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Hospital has come up with a prototype of a standing wheelchair that they hope will help paralyzed veterans live more productive lives.

Although this is not the first standing wheelchair ever developed, this one has significant design advances over previous ones. Dr. Gary Goldish made the changes to an existing wheelchair, at the Minneapolis VA with the input of engineers and veterans. We modified it by adding a drive wheel that separated the push rim from the tire,” stated Goldish.

Another significant change is that all four wheels are on the ground at all times. “The tire is on the ground each time, but it’s just transferring the load between the front and back faster, and that’s what makes it stable and mobile,” states Dr. Goldish.

Just a few clicks of the chair transform it, giving paraplegic patients increased functional reach, improved sense of well-being, and a potential reduction of pressure sores.

John Christensen was the first to test the new chair, and states that for the first time in 20 years he can reach a book on the top shelf without any help. “Makes life a little easier,” Christensen stated. “You don’t have to ask anybody to do something for you.”

Paralyzed Veterans of America provided the funding for this first prototype.

Although more design changes need to occur before the wheelchair is ready for release for the public, for Christensen, it means shooting baskets from a standing position again. Something he has not been able to do in years.



Pedestrian Zombies a Hazard

Pedestrians too involved in their smartphones and oblivious to the world around them are a hazard everywhere.

The death of a [15-year-old girl](#) who was struck by a commuter train while listening to headphones and looking at her smartphone when she walked onto the tracks, prompted the German city of Augsburg to do something about it.



The city of Augsburg [embedded flashing red LED lights](#) in the sidewalks at busy pedestrian crossings, because the pedestrians of late have been too involved in their smartphones to pay attention to regular traffic signals. City officials decided to install the lights /pedestrian traffic signals right into pedestrians' line of sight, presumably making walking fool-proof.

This isn't the first attempt at helping pedestrians multi-task. In 2014 [China's Chongqing City](#) experimented with a 165 foot long dedicated walking lane for smartphone users. Unfortunately, most pedestrians busy with their cell phones, dubbed "smartphone zombies", were too busy with their cell phones to notice the pavement markings below their feet.



In [Taiwan](#), officials considered distracted walking tickets for people too involved with their smartphones to navigate the country's chaotic roadways. According to the [government](#), Taiwanese drivers don't often yield to pedestrians (even when they have the [right-of-way](#)), and adding the over 14

million mobile internet users that are "addicted" to their smartphones to the mix...well, that ends in a whole lot of pedestrian fatalities.

The U.S. isn't fairing much better. The [U.S. Department of Transportation](#) has identified a connection between skyrocketing pedestrian deaths and increased smartphone use, and a [University of Washington](#) study concluded that 1 in 3 American pedestrians is busy texting, emailing, checking Facebook, listening to music, and using their smartphone in general, around high-risk intersections.

If you think we're safe in Canada, think again. In major Canadian cities, police respond to pedestrian vs vehicle accidents daily. In Toronto, an average of 6 pedestrians per day are hit by vehicles. Add in any type of weather difficulties, and that number easily doubles. Police readily admit that haphazard pedestrians lost in their cellphones frequently play a role. They state that even if they had police officers at every intersection, pedestrians would still get hit.

A [2014 study](#) at the University of Bath and Texas, U.S. found that smartphone users might not be as oblivious to their surroundings as some might think, and compensate with specific movements (dubbed the "protective shuffle" to navigate. However, the compensations didn't seem to work for radio researcher [Laura Safe](#) who was videoed walking into the Birmingham canal while texting her boyfriend.