

www.itthatworks.ca



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

Spam Filters: What They are, and Why You Can't Afford NOT to Have It.

Every day, more and more ransomware & malware are being developed & released to target businesses like yours.

The most common route of entry into businesses? Email.

CyberCriminals do their research on what kind of emails get opened, then structure a spam email, which is then sent to employees like yours. When the email is opened, or when a link is clicked on, your network is then infected with malware or ransomware.



In 2015, Canadians were hit by 1,641 attacks per DAY. In the U.S., there were 24,082 per DAY.

This would render a computer, and perhaps your whole network, unusable, until either ransom was paid, or a decryption key could be found (depending on which variant of ransomware/ malware you got).



Unfortunately, CyberCriminals are getting smarter. They do their research, because there's a lot of money in it for them when they succeed. The emails quite often look very legitimate, and only employees that are up on the latest attacks could be sure to avoid every scam email.

Give your business another line of security defense. Get a <u>spam filter</u>! A simple, fairly economical solution that

could save your company thousands!

A Spam Filter is a simple and powerful managed email filtering and security solution that protects users from all undesirable content such as spam, viruses, phishing, executable files, and other email-borne threats.

Make it a priority to purchase a spam filter...Your business depends on it.

Think about it...



TechTips

Roughing It...Luxuriously!



Just when you thought camping season was over...

On a good day, with the wind quiet and the sun shining, the temperature will reach a balmy 23° F. Definitely not Tahiti.

"But it feels really pleasant," says Patrick Woodhead. He's the CEO

and co-founder of White Desert, Antarctica's premier travel experience.

White Desert is Antarctica's first (and only) luxury resort. The camp, which has "hosted Saudi princesses who have never seen snow before", is modeled after fancy safaris. Only instead of expansive grasslands, lions, and luxury huts, you get icy plateaus, emperor penguins, and a fiberglass sleeping pod.

Inside each 23 foot diameter shelter, you'll find beds set against bamboo headboards, fur throws draped over the backs of chairs, and warm parkas to don after your shower. Each pod weighs 3 tons without furniture, and everything was flown in by plane at a shipping fee of \$38/pound.

Sound luxurious? It should. 8 nights in one of its "sleeping pods" runs a minimum of \$45,000. For an extra \$25,000, you can visit the South Pole.

You wouldn't hand your keys to a car thief...

...so why are you handing **CyberCriminals the** keys to your network?

DESIGN -



1-204-800-3166

Get a Spam Filter!

HOLOGY an I.T. partner you can TRUST.



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

TechTips



Some Big Brand Names Are Suddenly Missing A's, B's and O's.

It's not a computer glitch. Your monitor isn't broken.

It's all part of a massive effort to encourage people around the globe to donate blood.

"Without A's, O's and B's, we're nowhere. Help fill in the gaps," said <u>this ad for the #MissingType campaign</u>.

The campaign, spearheaded by the U.K.'s National Health Service, started last year to inspire those who had never given blood before to sign up as donors. The campaign got more than 30,000 people to donate blood.

The campaign gained popularity with some pretty bigname companies from <u>21 different countries</u>. Like <u>Morgan Stanley</u>, in New York City's Time's Square. <u>Tesco</u> in the U.K.. Even the <u>Sydney Opera House</u> participated.

The NHS hopes the campaign will help draw attention to the shortage in blood donations across the world.

The <u>World Health Organization</u> estimates that only about 33 of every 1,000 people in high-income countries give blood. The number is even lower for middle – and low-income countries. And yet 74 countries get more than 90% of their blood supply from voluntary donors, according to the WHO.

Implantable "memory prosthetic" May be First Step to Cyborgs...

I have problems remembering people's names 5 minutes after I meet them. While recent studies suggest that this process of <u>forgetting may be essential to the</u> <u>learning process</u>, it can be extremely problematic as well—especially for those with memory related conditions such as dementia, Alzheimer's or traumatic brain injury.

However, help may be soon on the horizon...if they're willing to undergo an invasive surgery to have a memory prosthetic installed in their brain.

If that sounds too much like something on a sci-fi channel, take a look at <u>Kernel</u>. Kernel is a LA-based startup which has already started to test their memory prosthetic on human subjects.



What is a "memory prosthetic"?

The part of the brain that is involved in converting short term memories into long term memories, is the hippocampus. When the hippocampus is injured, or in some other way degraded, the neuron signals it receives from the short term memory fail to get converted.

Using a computer-generated model, Ted Berger and his fellow researchers at UCLA were able to map patterns of neuronal firing that the hippocampus uses to convert short term memories into long term memories. From there, it was only a small leap to load these models onto a computer chip which could be embedded into the human brain, and take the place of an injured or missing hippocampus.



TechTips



6 Scientists Played Martian (in Hawaii) for a Year!

The north side of Mauna Loa, isolated from the outside world and 8,200 feet up a dormant volcano, is one of the most Mars-like environments on Earth. And 6 NASA crew members have been calling it home for the past year.

The 6 crew members have been living inside a domeshaped structure, and living out the latest in a series of NASA-operated missions designed to inform spaceflight: Operation HI-SEAS, for Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation.

The mission was designed to study the psychological impact of long-term space travel by sticking the crew in a confined environment with the same people.

The scientists lived, with little communication, and no access to fresh produce, in an abandoned quarry on Mauna Loa. The scientists wrapped up their yearlong near-isolation on August 28th.

It was the 4th, and longest, mission by the HI-SEAS. The six crew in isolation , which included 3 men and 3 women, were kept confined to a dome 36 feet (11 meters) wide with a living area of about 1,000 square feet. The team was only allowed to venture outside when wearing NASA spacesuits. To prevent claustrophobia, the dome has a six meter high ceiling, and is tiered in 2 floors. Regular exercise keeps them fit, with routines such as the P90X home fitness system, and yoga.

That's No Bull!

Give a hearty "Howdie!" to SwagBot. The latest invention from researchers at the Australian Centre for Field Robotics at the University of Sydney.

It's described as "an omni-directional electric robotic ground vehicle". The idea is that SwagBot can someday help to automate labour-intensive farm activities such as monitoring and interacting with plants & animals.

As seen in the video below, although it's looks are less than impressive, SwagBot's first test run was fairly impressive. The machine herded horses & cows, navigated rugged terrain, towed equipment, and showed off its ability to pair with a roving eye in the sky (drone). It even rolled across fallen logs & powered through streams.



The university is investing time into several projects involving farming machines. The Ladybird, is an autonomous contraption that can apparently detect, classify, map, weed, and ultimately harvest vegetables. For other farming machinery being developed, go to: <u>http://confluence.acfr.usyd.edu.au/display/</u><u>AGPub/Our+Robots</u>.

The research team at the Australian Centre for Field Robotics is currently only in its first year of a <u>three-year project</u>.

"So far SwagBot has only been remote controlled," Mark Calleija, a technical officer at the ACFR states. They say that additional research is needed to make SwagBot more autonomous.