



TECHNOLOGY
— BY DESIGN —

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TechTips

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

Gadget Spotlight: iSmart Alarm

There are many 'contractless' security systems on the market, and this month we decided to take a look at one of the leaders in the market, from iSmart Alarm.

The system is very easy to setup and has a great app to send you notifications and alerts. We have our system coupled with the iCamera-Keep, so if we do get an alert it is very easy to open the app and see who or what has set off the alarm. The Camera also has 2-way sound, so you can actually hear as well as see what is going on.

You can put sensors on all your doors and windows you care about monitoring, and the whole system is wireless, which is awesome.



Overall, we've been very happy with the system. It gives us peace of mind and is a more than capable security system. AND we don't have to pay the monthly contract associated with most security systems.

Life on Other Planets?



It seems as though life on other planets possibly isn't just in the movies...

While looking for signs of intelligent life in the universe, recently astronomers have detected 15 fast radio bursts from a distant galaxy.

While most of these bursts can be explained by rapidly spinning neutron stars or black holes, astronomers have no explanation for one of the bursts. This particular radio burst is the only one that repeats over and over. And astronomers can't quite explain it yet.

The first fast radio burst (FRB, single bursts of radio waves from outside our galaxy that last between 1-10 thousandths of a second) was 1st detected 15 years ago. Since then, only 17 such signals have been detected. However, up until now, the signals have been single-transmissions, not repeating bursts.

Where's Captain Kirk when you need him?

HACKERS ARE USING MORE ADVANCED METHODS THAN EVER!

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Rotten to the Core?

People weren't lined up in the usual droves for the newly released iPhone 8 Plus (most are waiting for the iPhone X to be released). But it seems as though the product, which ranges between \$950-\$1200 CAN, still manages to disappoint.

Days after receiving their new phones, people have flooded social media with pics of their new phones, which burst open while charging. Some were delivered already split open at the side.



Apple is looking into the issues, and believes that the problems are due to the battery "swelling".

Apple does state that they do not believe that the issue poses a safety problem.



Selfie Earns Photographer Legal Fight

Photographer David Slater never imagined that taking some selfies with new friends would end in a 2-year long legal battle.

Slater states that while in the Indonesia jungle, he earned the trust of a group of monkeys over several days. During his monkey encounter, one of the monkeys, picked up the camera, and took a selfie with Slater and another monkey.

PETA took issue with Slater making money from the photo, stating that the copyrights to the picture (and all proceeds from sale of the picture) should go to the monkey that took the picture. So PETA filed the lawsuit...on the monkey's behalf.

Slater has agreed to donate 25% of any future revenue to registered charities "dedicated to protecting the welfare or habitat of the monkeys."

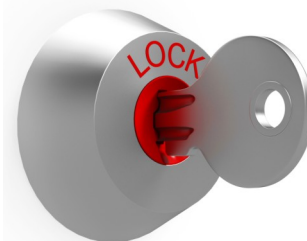
Ransomware is on the Rise

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Living Raft

The floods in Texas were devastating to people and animals alike. But one insect was able to band together (literally) to save one another.

Red fire ants, native to South America, usually live in colonies which can contain up to 250,000 workers. These ants inject a painful venom when it stings.

A single ant is unable to swim, but when a bunch of them work together, they grip each other forming a bumpy surface which is water repellent.

It is thought that the ants learned this survival method in their native Amazon River flood plain. This area usually flood several weeks every year, causing the ants to learn this adaptive mechanism to avoid becoming extinct.

Apparently these 'fire ant rafts' were sighted throughout Texas during the flood. People were cautioned not to poke the rafts with sticks or paddles, as the ants do take any advantage to leave the raft, and would do so quickly.

Researchers are now looking at the exact specifications of the fire ant rafts, in order to create new and improved water repellent fabrics.



Your Windows Hasbeen Banned

This PC has been banned for terms of use violations. To protect the windows service and its members. Microsoft does not provide details about specific PC bans.

Your PC has been banned because we detected an unusual activity on your computer. To protect the windows service and its member your PC maybe has been infected with viruses that do an usual activity like botnet,ddos,etc to grant access back to your computer please pay some fee to trusted Microsoft Technician and the Microsoft Technician will give you a code to unlock to get a code please click button down to below to contact the nearest Microsoft Technician.

Show Nearest Microsoft Technician

Already Have your unlock code? Enter it here

Write Your 6 Digit code

Submit

“Your Windows Has Been Banned” Malware Makes a Return

‘Your Windows Has Been Banned’ is a nasty piece of malware the 1st surfaced in 2016. It locks your computer and tells you that you have been banned for terms of use violations. It doesn’t provide details, but tells you to call ‘technicians’ to purchase a code to unlock the screen and purchase a new Windows license.

This new strain demands \$50-\$200 in Bitcoin or it will delete all the data rendering the computer useless.

The trick: NEVER open suspicious files or click on links, keep your system up-to-date with anti-malware solutions, and maintain a good backup.

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Personal computers were surfaced more than 30 years ago but has since evolved into a seriously scary form of



Bill Gates: Not an iPhone Fan

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates has recently revealed he uses an Android-powered smartphone, rather than a Windows one.

Microsoft's own Windows-powered phones have failed to make a significant impact on the market, which is being dominated by devices running Google's Android operating system.

When asked if he also had an iPhone, as a secondary device, Gates replied "No, no iPhone."

Although he did not indicate which Android device he uses, Gates did say he had installed lots of Microsoft apps on his phone.



"I think this note from your parents excusing you from math class is an example of fake news."

Netflix On Cartel's Hitlist

Narcos, a popular Netflix series based on the life and rise of Pablo Escobar to power, is not making any friends in the Escobar family.

Escobar Inc., the company owned by Pablo Escobar's brother Roberto de Jesus Escobar Gaviria, filed a lawsuit against Netflix. Gaviria is demanding \$1 billion dollars for the use of the infamous Medellin cartel

founder's name and story without permission.

In a [interview with THR](#), Gaviria stated "I don't want Netflix or any other film production company to film any movies in Medellin or Columbia that relates to me or my brother Pablo without authorization from Escobar Inc....It is very dangerous. Especially without our blessing. This is my country."

Gaviria stated in a previous [interview with VICE](#) in 2014 that cartel life was, "all behind me...I do good now." However, when asked about security measures that the Netflix crew should take, he stated "Netflix should provide hitmen to their people as security."

Not to mention that a veteran location scout for Narcos, Carlos Munoz Portal, had recently been murdered, while scouting for locations in Mexico. AND that the murder was still unsolved.

Regarding the \$1 billion, Gaviria states "If we don't receive it, we will close their little show."

