



TECHNOLOGY
— BY DESIGN —

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TechTips

Technology news, information and interesting stories.
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The Pirate Bay now uses your Browser to Mine

The Pirate Bay, the notorious download torrent search engine that for years has let you search for and download almost anything has recently been using your browser to mine cryptocurrency. Reports have it that if you visit the site a script will start running that uses some of your CPU (8-15%) to mine cryptocurrency. Adblockers like uBlock Origin and Adblock Plus will block the script. Although it sounds nefarious, I'm not really sure if I'm totally against what is going on, especially if they change up the way they do things. If I was prompted asking if I would like to allow 10% of my CPU to be used while I was using the site, I think it's not a bad idea, especially as generating ad revenue has become near impossible for independent websites since Google and Facebook now account for 61% of all advertising revenue. We may see this model used by more sites



The Power of (viral) advertising

Filmmaker Max Lanman recently created a video ad for his fiancée's 1996 Honda Accord, featuring things like the rubber ducks in the back, the full coffee maker kept in the passenger seat and a mirror in the trunk. Sounds funny, but the ad was so well done that after the car was put up on Ebay for \$499 the video went viral and the car shot up to \$150,000.00. Ebay cancelled the auction because of the absurd price, but allowed it to be listed again and the car currently sits at \$3300 USD. You can view the ad here and the article also has links to the auction in case you feel the need to bid. <https://goo.gl/qHqWJy>



Hindsight is Really More Than 20/20...

If you had purchased \$100 in Bitcoin 7 years ago when 1 bitcoin was worth .003 cents, you would now be worth \$140 million



10 Year Old Hacks Apple Face-ID, with his genetics

Since the iPhone X hit the market with its Face ID feature, people have been trying all sorts of things to trick it. Well, it turns out it's not all that hard, if you are related. A 10 year old was able to unlock his Mom's phone by basically just changing the angle and his smile. He was also able to unlock his Dad's phone in the same fashion.



HACKERS ARE USING MORE ADVANCED METHODS THAN EVER!

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WE CAN HELP!



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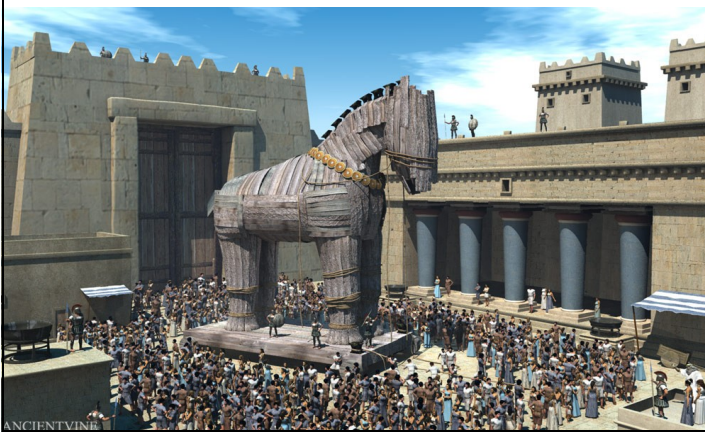
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Terdot Trojan Hacks Banking, Credit Cards, Gmail, Facebook, Yahoo and Twitter

Terdot, a new Trojan horse based on the infamous Zeus malware which wreaked havoc on over 3 million PCs in 2009, has been making the rounds and has the ability to hack banking and social media information. Terdot has the ability to automatically modify and update itself, which could make it harder for virus scanners to detect it and it could load other virus programs to do damage. Back in 2009, Zeus spread by email and managed to steal over \$70 million from victims bank accounts and stole the login credentials for over 74,000 websites including Bank of America, NASA and Amazon among others.

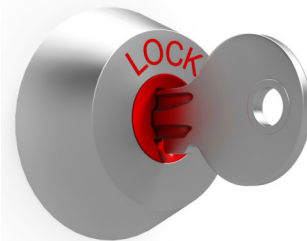


iPhone Cable Reportedly Electrocutes Girl to Death

According to a few news feeds a Vietnamese girl rolled on to her charging cable which she kept with her phone on her bed and made contact with exposed wires in the cable which then shocked her to death. There are no reports as to whether this was a real or 3rd party cable. Although the 5 volts that the cable delivers seems low, it is actually the amperage which becomes dangerous with 1 amp being enough to cause fatal heart irregularities.

Ransomware is on the Rise

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Someone 'Accidentally' Locked Away \$300 Million of Other People's Ethereum Funds

Recently, a single user managed to permanently lockdown dozens of digital wallets which are basically a bank account for cryptocurrency. Total contents of the wallets...\$300 million. The Ethereum community is considering doing a 'hard fork' which would reverse this but is risky for geek reasons I won't get into. Apparently the user was 'jiggling door handles' in the code, and when one door opened he panicked, tried to close it and 'The whole house exploded'. Ethereum is asking for your patience until they fully figure this out and can rectify it or give instructions or advice. Hard to stay patient I would guess with \$300 million on the line. In a related Ethereum event, back in July a hacker managed to steal \$32 million in funds before the Ethereum community banded together and hacked it back.



'Genius' Russian boy can remember previous life on Mars in astounding detail

The curious case of Boriska Kipriyanovich, now 20, continues to startle experts. From an early age he began telling about his previous life on Mars in which the civilization was ravaged by war and then nuclear catastrophe. Apparently the human race has more knowledge to unlock and the Great Sphinx in Egypt holds the key. This all has sparked endless discussion on conspiracy theory websites. I'm thinking the 'experts' are just not that used to seeing kids with imaginations these days...



Bitcoin Scam victimizes people to the tune of \$340,000 in the York Ontario Region

One of the latest scams to hit Canada is a CRA/Police scam whereby someone will make a call posing as a CRA/Revenue Canada Agent or Police officer and advise you that you could be arrested over pending tax issues if you do not pay your (fake) amount owing immediately. You are then advised to go to a location, quite often a store or convenience store and deposit into a Bitcoin ATM your balance owing. Of course, because it is a scam your money never goes to the police or Revenue Canada and the fraudsters who most often call from another Country escape with your money. CRA/Revenue Canada and other government agencies do not accept Bitcoin as payment, so if you receive a call and don't think you owe, or are not sure if the call is legit, tell them you will call back and then call the CRA/Revenue Canada's number not the number that you were called from, and ask if you do actually have a balance owing. Whatever you do, do not be scared or forced into making a quick payment of any sort, including credit card.

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'Smart Vehicles' only as Smart as the Programmer...

A driverless shuttle recently launched in Vegas to much fanfare quickly showed that there's still some work to be done with these vehicles. The shuttle was cruising near the strip when it sensed a truck backing up, the shuttle stopped, but the driver did not see it and the shuttle then patiently waited as the truck eventually backed into it, not making an attempt to get out of the way. The driver of the truck was at fault, but it goes to show that the 'smart' vehicle may still need some work. The company operating the shuttle said the shuttle reacted as intended and did not immediately state that they would work on the programming to correct the issue, instead saying that they have had it working flawlessly in other cities...?!? In defense of the shuttle, it can only be as smart as the company developing it.



"No, smarty pants aren't wearable tech."

Send Facebook Your Nudes to Fight Revenge Porn

Facebook has started an initiative to help fight revenge porn. All you have to do is submit your photos and their algorithm will then identify if any of your pictures are posted to Facebook, Messenger and Instagram. It sounds scary at first but in reading a few articles about it, I'm actually for it. It is handled by computers and algorithms not pervy employees and seems to do a good job, and if it can save someone from getting nude pictures of them posted by an angry ex, then great. It's currently being tested in Australia, and if it succeeds we may see it roll out to the rest of the world soon.



Driverless Big Rigs are Coming To Canada

Tesla recently announced a battery powered truck set to be ready by 2019, but the bigger story may be that driverless trucks will be on the roads in Canada in the next couple of years. There's debate as to whether this will make the roads safer, with many experts saying it will as it will decrease the aggressive and inattentive drivers which are the cause of a good percentage of transport vehicle accidents. It's one thing to test them in California though and say they are ready, they should really be testing them for a Manitoba winter. Take a few up to Thompson for 365 days and we'll see how they really make out. It is said that the autonomous vehicles won't operate when conditions are more hazardous than they can handle, I wonder how many days that will eliminate from the year.

