



Email: helpdesk@tbyd.ca
Phone: 204-227-6338

Volume 8

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TECH TIPS

St. Paddy's Day Pub-Crawl...Geek-Style

Pub crawls on St. Patrick's Day are like well, science fiction is to geeks. But for the geek out there, you might use a little more Spock-logic to pick your watering holes. You might want to Warp-Speed through the great watering holes and steamy dives of science fiction and fantasy literature and film. No promises that if you pass out, no one will write eldritch runes on your forehead with a sharpie...

- 1. THE RAVEN (INDIANA JONES)**
Drink a burly Sherpa under the table with Marian Ravenwood at her Nepalese bar, The Raven. After surviving Nazis, snakes and the wrath of God, Marian went on to open The Raven's Nest in New York City.
- 2. THE WINCHESTER (SHAUN OF THE DEAD)**
The Winchester is THE destination for Shaun and Ed. It's the ideal location after battling zombies. Or, in the event that zombies infest that too, it's also the perfect place to battle them, because the juke box will provide the soundtrack (whether you want one or not).
- 3. OBLIVION BAR (DC COMICS)**
The Oblivion Bar is where all the magic users hang out, in order to get away from all the 'normal' people. Since the bar exists in a "pocket dimension" there are entrances in Atlanta, New York, Gotham, Metropolis, New Orleans, Detroit, and possibly other locations, only visible to those with magical abilities.

For more bars to visit on your geeky pub-crawl, check out the website at <http://www.themarysue.com/power-grid-geek-bar-crawl/?pid=51>

Every Parent's Dream...Every Teenager's Nightmare

The moral of the story: be careful what you put on Facebook (or the internet in general), especially if your dad works in IT. An IT-smart dad found a not-so-flattering letter his daughter had posted on her Facebook page complaining about how rough she had it. Her dad had just spent 6 hours (and \$130) the previous day upgrading her laptop. Her dad's response: Filming, and posting to his daughter's Facebook page, his response. Including 7 shots with his 45 straight to the laptop. AND he is making her pay for the bullets he used. The video promptly went viral.

Now, this extreme method of parenting isn't for everyone. But you gotta admit, every parent dreams about doing this at least once (or once a week) in their teenager's life.

For those that haven't seen the video, follow this link to check it out:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl1ujzRidmU&feature=player_embedded.

A Little Blue Pill...For Your Computer???

AMD recently raised eyebrows (among other things) when they shipped prescription bottles full of little blue pills, complete with wacky 'directions' to reviewers in anticipation of the release of a 1GHz video card. Talk about 'natural performance enhancement' for your computer!

There is talk that the delivery of the 'prescriptions' is leading up to the release of the Radeon HD 7700. Providing fuel to the rumours, the code name for the 7700 is "Cape Verde", and the name of the 'performance boosting pills' is Verdetrol.

Reviewers in receipt of the bottles report that it was done very well, with a dosage size of 1 GHz, 28 doses in the bottle (for the 28nM manufacturing process) and a prescription number of 1337-2012 (for the Leet speakers in the house). They were instructed "For best results, take 1 tablet by fan intake four times daily." AMD even set up a Verdetrol website, complete with humorous warning labels.



Check out the Verdetrol website for yourself at: <http://verdetrol.com/>

Trivia Winner – Congratulations to the Winner of the Trivia Question for Tim Horton's coffee & donuts: Imperial Seed Ltd!

Located at 1038 Arlington, Imperial Seed is primarily focused on seed multiplication of forage and turf species. The foundation of Imperial Seed's success and growth is a history of quality and integrity. They run an accredited seed processing facility and work with Western Canadian Farmers to ensure quality seed for domestic and international markets. Growers have at their disposal almost 60 years of cumulative field experience! Imperial Seed is committed to keeping the growers' interests foremost while maintaining contract quality. Call Nathan, Kurt or Karl at 786-8457 for more information, or visit their website at www.imperialseed.com.

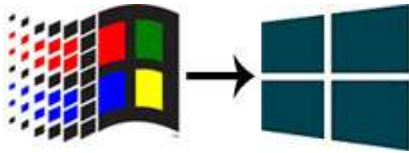


Tech Tips has now expanded to 2 pages!



Flooding in Thailand Still Affecting Local Prices of Hard Drives

If your hard drive has bit it in the last few months, you might have noticed that you're paying more than previously. That's because severe flooding in Thailand (where hard drives are manufactured) in late 2011, have left hard drives in short supply, and driven up costs to consumers. Due to the flooding, prices on hard drives have risen roughly 28%. Relief is coming...slowly. Manufacturers estimate that supply and demand, and thus prices, will likely return to pre-flood levels approximately during the 3rd quarter of 2012.



Windows...Upgrading?

After more than 2 decades, it is reported that Microsoft is replacing the all-too-familiar 4-colour wavy Windows logo with a flattened 4-square diagonal window pane.

Chinese website CNBeta.com has posted what it claims are exclusive pictures of the new logo. This new logo is rumoured to be unveiled in an upcoming Windows 8 consumer preview beta, and as a physical button on an upcoming tablet.

Apple Export Ban in China

While Apple has been seeking to prevent and/or remove Galaxy Tabs off store shelves, using a variety of tactics. It seems that the joke is on Apple.

A Chinese court has ruled that Apple has no right to use the "iPad" name in mainland China because a company call Proview Technology holds the trademark, In a "I'm rubber and you're glue" move, Proview wants a complete iPad import/export ban. Since all iPads are manufactured in China...well, you can see that it puts a damper on the worldwide supply for the tablet.

It has been reported that Chinese government officials have began confiscating iPads from stores in Shijazhuang, the capital of the Heibe province. Proview has revealed that it is seeking similar actions to occur in 30 additional cities, as well as the China-wide ban on imports/exports.

Since Apple is sitting on \$97.6 billion in available cash, guesses are that Apple just peels off a few bills for Proview before it lets the supply of iPads peter out.

ST PATRICK'S TRIVIA QUESTION:

According to legend, what should you never do if you should catch a leprechaun?

Email your answer to: answer@tbyd.ca for your chance to win Tim Horton's coffee & donuts delivered to your door!

Greasy Hands Foil Cell Phone Technology

Popular with teenagers, gadgety people, and paranoid cell phone users is Android's swipe-to-unlock security feature. This enables the user to create a 'password' to unlock your phone, that is a series of 'connect-the-dots'. Smart, right?



Unfortunately, if you're human, then your skin tends to naturally release oils. This means, that unless you wash your hands enough to make someone with OCD jealous, you could be your own worst enemy. Android's swipe-to-unlock feature is easily thwarted just by looking at the smudge pattern on your screen.

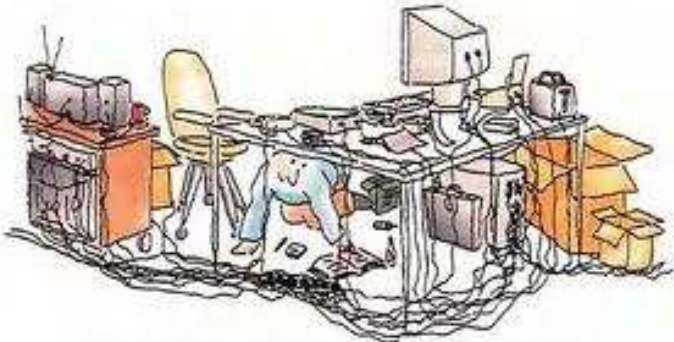
Don't tell my teenage daughter this...I'm going to try it out. If it works, all her friends are about to get some really puzzling texts!



Anonymity Isn't All it's Cracked Up To Be

National law enforcement officers in Europe and South America unmasked and arrested 25 individuals suspected to be members of the "Anonymous" hacking group. The alleged hackers are accused of coordinating planned cyber attacks against several institutions, including Columbia's defense ministry.

The most recent arrests are the fruit of an investigation that is only a couple of weeks old, but has already shown profitable, including the seizure of 250 pieces of IT equipment and mobile phones in searches of more than three dozen specific locations in 15 cities.



"Now, if you can find the power switch, flip it on."