

## TECH TIPS

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### Top Geeky Costumes

It's October. And Halloween is on it's way. I know it's 30 days or so until Halloween, but good Halloween costumes don't just happen. Any self-respecting geek must start planning their costumes NOW! Here's a few suggestions:



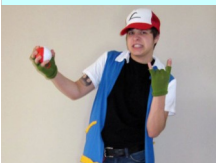
Who can resist PacMan and the Ghosts!

Go as your favourite social media network!



Duuuude!  
I see double rainbows!

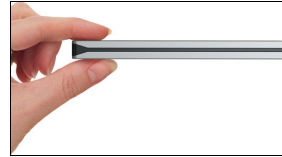
Go as your favourite time waster!



Or your favourite game character!

For the full list of 40 click: [HERE](#)  
Photos: Flickr/Loozrboy, and CNET

### USB Sticks Extinct?



Nowadays, a common item on back-to-school lists is a USB stick. Thanks to Toshiba, schools may be asking you to bring your own hard drive...

Toshiba recently launched it new 'Canvio Slim Portabel External Hard Drive (try saying that 10 times fast!). This drive is only 9 mm thick, 107 mm long and 75 mm wide (or .35 inches x 4.21 inches x 2.95 inches), and holds 500 GB of data. It's reputed to be the world's thinnest portable model.

Toshiba states "As consumer electronics continue to get thinner, lighter, and more portable, we recognized a huge demand to create a storage device that is in line with those trends".

The external hard drive is equipped with a SuperSpeed USB 3.0 interface for fast data transfers, and it's drive inside spins at 5400 RPM, and has an 8MG cache buffer, and 12ms average seek time. To translate Geek-lish to English...it's plently sufficient for portable backup and transfer chores.

The hard drive is available in silver or black, comes pre-loaded with NT Backup Now EZ software. You can order direct from Toshiba, for \$115 U.S.

For more information the hard drive, click: [HERE](#).

### Global Bacon Shortage "Unavoidable"

BLTs might be shortened to just LTs as soon as next year.

According to Britain's National Pig Association, a global shortage of bacon and pork "is now unavoidable" due to shrinking herds. They state that annual pig production for Europe's main pig producers declined significantly in 2012, and that this trend is occurring in all parts of the world. They claim the cause of the pig decline to be increased feed costs, which has been affected by poor harvests for corn and soybeans.

The USDA forecasts a decrease of next year's pork production of about 1.3% from this years estimated total. That means that Americans can only consume slightly more than 45lbs of pork per capita in 2013.

This translates to higher pork & bacon prices, as well as possibly thinner Americans. Although, I'm sure someone somewhere will invent a pork substitute...



## Roommate Matching

First there were dating sites, then Facebook, now...roommate matching??

The roommate disaster. Whether it was body odour, anti-social tendencies, or just a bad match, everyone had (or know someone that had) the "Roommate from Hell".

Spurned on by a extremely bad roommate experience that almost led him to dropping out of University, Justin Mares, realized that the questionnaire that most Universities use to match roommates, are too vague to be of any real value. Justin also realized that student satisfaction, and student retention, was affected by bad roommate experiences.

Justin, rather than transferring to another University, used his bad roommate experience. He figured that Universities should be using similar technology as dating sites. Justin ran with this idea, and using Ohio University as his guinea pig in 2011, came up with RoommateFit. He has since signed contracts with 3 major US Universities to match over 7000 freshman for the 2012-2013 school year.

Justin is now looking to expand his product to include apartment/housing roommate seekers in New York and San Francisco. Initially the product will be free of charge.

To check out the product yourself, go to: [RoommateFit.com](http://RoommateFit.com).

## Everyone's On Facebook!

I thought that Facebook lost it's coolness once my grandmother sent me a 'Friend' request. Don't get me wrong, I love my grandmother, but do I really want her seeing everything I've got on my Facebook page. But this one really ends it...

Klein Michael Thaxton of Pittsburgh, continually updated his Facebook page...during his standoff with police. Yes, you read correctly. Klein was posting live updates to his page, during the time that he walked into a downtown Pittsburgh building, and took a man hostage, while armed.

Thousands of workers in the area were evacuated. The Facebook page 'went black' after several hours of the police standoff. Klein surrendered peacefully, and no injuries were reported.

## Crisp Blog?

If you can think of it, there's probably a blog being written about it. Bacon? Yep, check out: [blog.johnubacon.com/](http://blog.johnubacon.com/). Shoelaces? Believe it or not, yes. Check out: [jean-ste.wordpress.com/](http://jean-ste.wordpress.com/).

And now there is a blog about chips, or "crisps" as they call them. They vow to try every chip out there, "or die trying". They write reviews on the chips...

They also provide us with info about Ireland's National Potato Day (it was August 22), and the world's only Potato Museum (in Washington). And if you are watching your favourite tv show, and don't want to leave the house to buy some chips, they offers tips on how to make your own!

Check it out at: <http://www.ablogaboutcrisps.com/>



## September 2012 Trivia Winner: Diane Pratt at Arne's Welding!

Located at 835 Mission Street, Arne's Welding has been in business since 1953. Arne's Welding has evolved from a welding shop, to one of Western Canada's premier manufacturer of construction trailers.

Arne's provides a top-of-the-line product, and their trailers enjoy a virtually trouble-free, low-maintenance long life. They also boast the highest resale value in the market. These factors have led to strong brand preference and loyalty by customers.

For more information about Arne's Welding or their products, call 204-233-7111. You can also check out their website at: <http://www.arnes.com/>

**Don't forget your entry for this month's trivia for a chance to win coffee & donuts...delivered to your workplace! PLUS, Your company will be featured In next month's issue of TechTips, on our blog, and our Facebook page!**

***Your feature will reach over 2000 potential customers!!***



October is

## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH!

<http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-awareness-month>

## Fitbit Ultra

If you're like me (and I know I can't be the only procrastinator out there!), fitness is always taking a back seat to everything. We all know that making fitness a part of your everyday routine is the key to getting the results you're after. I can hear your groans now!

Keeping track of your daily fitness, helps you to reach your goal. I'm not talking about those pesky pedometers that you clip to your pocket, or that website that you have to painstakingly type in all your minutes (because every minute does count!).

The Fitbit Ultra is a pocket-sized wireless exercise tracker that tracks your daily steps, distance traveled, reports on your sleeping efficiency, counts calories, and automatically uploads it all to your computer.

The Fitbit Ultra comes in your choice of blue or plum, includes an OLED (Organic Light-Emitting Diode) display to keep you updated on your progress. It even has a visual representation of a flower that grows and wilts, depending on your activity. At a pricetag of \$100, it's similar to higher end pedometers.

For more information, go to: [fitbit.com](http://fitbit.com)

## China Plays "Eenie Meenie Miny Moe" With It's Missiles...

Once a childhood game, now popular in China's choosing which missile to launch...

In the apparently first comprehensive, non-government report on China's nuclear warplans, John Lewis, a professor of Chinese politics at Stanford University, reveals that China stores it nuclear and conventional (ie. Non-nuclear) missiles in the same location.

Lewis, writing in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, states that should China launch, the intermingling of missiles could lead to some confusion, and concern, by other countries as to which kind of missiles they are launching. Lewis goes on to state that should the Chinese see their nuclear assets targeted and destroyed, they may see fit to launch their remaining nuclear warheads.

Lewis does say that China's missile integration is unlikely to cause a nuclear exchange. Others seem to agree. Jeffrey Lewis, a nuclear weapons analyst at the Monterrey Institute of International Studies, and James Dobbins, a former U.S. ambassador to several conflict zones agree. They state (and I'm paraphrasing here) that although not smart, the mixing of the missiles is unlikely to cause WW III.

## DO YOU HAVE A BURNING COMPUTER QUESTION ??

Email the Technology By Design Resident Geek! We'll even translate it from Geek-lish to English, so the answer actually helps!

Email your question to: [geek@tbyd.ca](mailto:geek@tbyd.ca)

Check our blog for the answer:  
[tbyd.ca/blog](http://tbyd.ca/blog)

## SEPTEMBER TRIVIA QUESTION:

What is Samhainophobia?

Email your answer to: [answer@tbyd.ca](mailto:answer@tbyd.ca) for your chance to **win coffee & donuts** delivered to your workplace!

**PLUS**, Your company will be featured in next month's issue of TechTips, on our blog, and our Facebook page!

**Your feature will reach over 2000 other people!**



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## Spooky Halloween Specials!



Get the computer that suits your needs!



Thermaltake Case and  
Power Supply  
Gigabyte Motherboard  
AMD Quad Core Processor  
8GB Ram  
DVD-RW  
1TB Hard Drive  
Windows 7 Home Premium  
No Crapware!

**\$650.00**

Some places offer to sell you a similar computer, for cheaper.

**So what sets us apart?**

TbyD uses top-of-the-line parts in all our computers. AND all TbyD computers come with a **1-year 'Right Here' warranty** meaning you won't have to hand your computer over to a big box store for 6-8 weeks while they send it away to get it repaired.

*We replace any defective part for you immediately, and WE deal with the manufacturer after.*

**We believe our customers' time means something!**



Add a wireless mouse & keyboard for only

**\$35.00**

Add 18.5 LG Flatron monitor for only

**\$125.00**

If this computer doesn't do it for you, let us know! We can custom-build a computer just for you.  
We also sell laptops, computer accessories and software.