



# TECH TIPS

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## Top Geeky Backpacks

Back to school is upon us, and so is the chance to announce your geekiness to the world (if they couldn't already tell...). Here are some of the top 18 Ultra Geeky Backpacks



Let the Force Be With You with Master Yoda strapped to your back.

Be geeky AND old-school with Gizmo strapped to your back!



Let Chewie grunt out your answers with the Chewbacca backpack!

We're not afraid of no homework! Ghostbusters Proton Pack Backpack



Play online anywhere with this Wi-Fi backpack!

For the full list of 50 click: [HERE](#)  
Photos courtesy of TechBlog

## Mobile Safety for Back to School

I'm not going to date myself by being specific about the back-to-school items I needed, but you can be sure it was a far cry from the laptops, tablets and cell phones they have today (with some schools even making tablets or laptops part of the required school supply list).

Data shows that 52% of kids 8-12 years, and 77% between 12-17 own cell phones, with teens sending an average of 100 text messages per day (personally, I've seen my kids text, and I think that figure is low). This indicates that kids are online most of the day (especially when I see my son's Facebook status updates when he's supposedly in class...).

With this in mind, online safety is a concern. Parents and kids need to get together and agree on: specific features on the child's phone that will be enabled, clear rules for use of the cell phone, and the consequences for any violation of those rules. Kids also need to know: share their phone numbers (and other personal information) with family and close friends only; lock their phones with a PIN and keep it secret (even from their 'besties', which tend to change weekly); avoid clicking on ads. Parents, if they use a family location service to monitor their kids' whereabouts, should ensure that only members of the immediate family can locate them.

For more information, or more tips on cybersafety click: [HERE](#).

## An Important Notice To Technology By Design Clients:

The Government of Manitoba, following the electronics recycling programs in other provinces, also launched its own waste electronic equipment recycling program through the Electronic Products Recycling Association - Manitoba (EPRA Manitoba).

**Effective August 1, 2012, the electronic products fee program is funded by an Electronics Handling Fee (EHF) ranging from \$0.40 to \$23.25 on the purchase of computer and accessories, and new TVs in Manitoba.**

What does this mean for you? This means that any computer equipment purchased in Manitoba after July 31, 2012, you will see an additional charge on your invoice for the EHF.

For information about the fees are, click: [HERE](#)



## Gaming Productive?

### Don't Tell Teenagers!

Who knew? Gaming is actually productive. Well, not so much for the average gamer (teenage or 40-year-old), but it works out for us in the end.

Turns out, that all those safety crash tests done on vehicles are great...unless you're other than average height, weight, or build. Matt Reed, Head of the Biosciences Group at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) states "With 33,000 people in the U.S. dying last year in collisions, there's a disconnect between crash test results and what underserved people are experiencing in accidents".

Reed states that using scanners (commonly used by video-game creators) designed to capture body shapes in real time, they are building a representation of a huge range of body shapes and dimensions.

Unlike crash tests, with their \$45,00-\$100,00 price tag per dummy (not to mention the test vehicle, virtual testing is easier on the wallet.

For the whole story, click: [HERE](#)

## Unhappy With Dell Tech Support

Dell Tech Support employees working Friday night had an unusually interesting evening (better than "did you check if your computer is plugged in?"). Someone, while riding a bicycle, opened fire on the building. The bicyclist hit 3 windows on the first 3 floors of Building Seven on Dell's campus in Round Rock, Texas.

Police arrived on the scene within minutes of the shooting, and eventually mounted a helicopter search, but no one was arrested. Police don't have a motive for the shooting.

Apparently this isn't the first time that someone opened fire on Dell Campus. SWAT attended the campus last year after a Dell sales executive decided to get staff's hearts racing about the Dell Streak tablet, by donning a trench coat and ski mask and marching into the company's offices brandishing a tablet in each hand. The sales exec and his manager were charged after the incident, but charges were later dropped.

Hey, just 'cause they're geeks doesn't mean they're smart!

## Obama Brewery?

Obama likes his beer. While at Iowa State Fair in August, Obama talked about his love of beer. He even bought fair-goers a round of beers at the fair, and told them about the latest White House feature—a home brewery.

Although, calling it a home brewery might be like calling my minivan a Cadillac. Mr. President of the U.S. has bought several beer-making kits (with personal funds) for the White House. Apparently he's made 3 varieties so far: White House Honey Ale, White House Honey Blonde Ale, and White House Honey Porter. All were made with honey from Michelle Obama's kitchen garden.

During his visit at the State Fair, he told the audience about the home-brew he was looking forward to drinking on the bus at the end of the day.

## August 2012 Trivia Winner:

### Deborah Manthey at Christie innoMed!



With their head office in Quebec, Christie innoMed has 7 offices in Canada, including the office located at 8-1109 Wilkes Avenue in Winnipeg. Christie innoMed initially started in Quebec as an x-ray film producer.

Christie innoMed develops, distributes, integrates and supports innovative products and solutions that improve the performance of Canadian healthcare institutions in the areas of medical imaging and information management solutions.

For more information, you can call their Winnipeg office at (204) 694-4103, and talk to Jon Coutts (Sales Manager) or Ken Klymchuk (Service Manager). You can also check out their website at:

<http://www.christieinnomed.com/en/repres.php>

**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!!***



## 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)

### "My Widdle Baby Made a Wee-Wee", and Other Annoying Facebook Status Updates

We've all seen them. The Facebook status that makes you think (or say out loud) "SERIOUSLY???". Mashable.com put together a list of the 20 most annoying ones. If you are guilty of 1, or more (yikes!), please take note.

1. TMI Parents. You know who you are. They are the ones that give wayyyyyy too much information about their kids' bodily functions. AND some provide pictures in case the descriptives weren't enough.
2. Vaguebooking. You know the ones that give you just enough information to know that something is wrong, but don't say what, prompting others to ask what's going on.
3. Unsolicited Check-Ins. I don't think I'm alone in saying, no one cares that you are currently drinking a double-double at Timmy's, or that you're getting that unibrow waxed.
4. Vanity Update. We love your new haircut, but we don't need to see it from 50 different angles.
5. Third Person. TechTips writer hates when people refer to themselves in the third person. TechTips writer thinks that unless you're The Hulk, you should stop.
6. The Phantom Tag. I'm nowhere near where that picture was taken. TechTip writer does not like being randomly tagged.
7. Publicizing Private Moments. Personal 'chick-flick' moments publicized for the world to read, between 2 people that are probably sitting beside each other on the couch. Or posting publicly about private or sensitive matters regarding family, friends, legal issues, or feminine hygiene products (yes, it's happened).

For the full list click: [HERE](#)

### NASA Phone Home



NASA is keeping busy these days. In addition to the Curiosity rover on Mars, they are also preparing to send two nano-satellites (cube-shaped and weighing only 2 lbs)

in the great beyond. The cool thing is, that they plan to power these satellites with smartphones!

NASA has chosen HTC's Nexus One (PhoneSat 1.0) and Samsung's Nexus S (PhoneSat 2.0) for the winning pair of smartphones to make the trip to space. 2 mitigating factors in choosing these two: size and cost. The plans for the 2 nano-satellites are to take pictures and record its position in space. The PhoneSat 1.0, including the Nexus One phone, batteries, radio beacon, and a watchdog circuit clocks in at around \$3500. PhoneSat 2.0, which includes everything that PhoneSat 1.0 has, plus solar panels, and a GPS receiver costs a little more. The total price tag that NASA is planning to spend for this mission: around \$50,000, which is a bargain compared to the hundreds of millions of dollars for a typical satellite.

The first 'smartphone in space' satellite (PhoneSat 1.0) is expected to launch by the end of 2012. If it's successful, PhoneSat 2.0 will follow.

### SEPTEMBER TRIVIA QUESTION:

**What inspired the  
Invention of the gluestick?**

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!**



Phone: 204-800-3165  
 Email: helpdesk@tbyd.ca

# Back To School and Back To Work!

Get the computer that suits your needs!

## GREAT MULTI-MEDIA COMPUTER!

- Thermaltake V4 Tower
- 450w Power Supply
- Gigabyte Motherboard
- AMD A6-3500 Triple Core Processor
- 4GB Ram
- DVD-RW
- 1TB Hard Drive
- Windows Home Premium
- No Crapware

**\$699.99**



## GREAT GENERAL-PURPOSE WORKSTATION OR HOME COMPUTER!

- Thermaltake V4 Tower
- 400w Power Supply
- Gigabyte Motherboard
- AMD A4-3400 Dual Core Processor
- 4GB Ram
- DVD-RW
- 500GB Hard Drive
- Windows Home Premium
- No Crapware

**\$599.99**

## ULTIMATE GAMING AND GRAPHICS COMPUTER!

- Thermaltake Commander Tower
- 550w Power Supply
- Gigabyte Super 4 Motherboard
- AMD A4-3670 Quad Core Processor
- 8GB Ram
- 1GB Radeon 6450 Video Card
- DVD-RW
- 2TB Hard Drive
- Windows Home Premium
- No Crapware

**\$899.99**



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!**

If these computers don'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.