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TECH GIFTS TO AVOID BUYING

While a playful robot that uses facial recognition to analyze a child's moods might seem like an awesome gift for your nephew, it's not so great when you learn that data can be hacked by cybercriminals or shared for third-party advertising.

At the 2023 CES electronics exhibition, Jen Easterly, director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, told the *Washington Post* that most tech companies address safety problems when they happen rather than developing safety features proactively. Companies are "really focused on cost, capability, performance and speed to market, not on basic safety," she said.

No matter how well they promise to clean your floors or entertain your children, some tech products are not worth the security risks. Here are a few tech gifts to avoid and tips for wiser tech shopping.

Beware These Tech Gifts

Camera-Enabled Devices With Bad Privacy Policies

Doorbell cams have one purpose: to see and hear everything around your home and neighborhood. Then it sends that data to the cloud. Poorly secured cameras could allow hackers to access live feeds, potentially giving them insight into when you're home and when you're away. Always choose devices with end-to-end encryption and transparent privacy policies.

AI-Integrated Devices

In 2022, images from iRobot's AI-enabled Roomba were leaked online. Although the company claimed test users consented to share data, it underscores the risk of AI devices collecting extensive information about

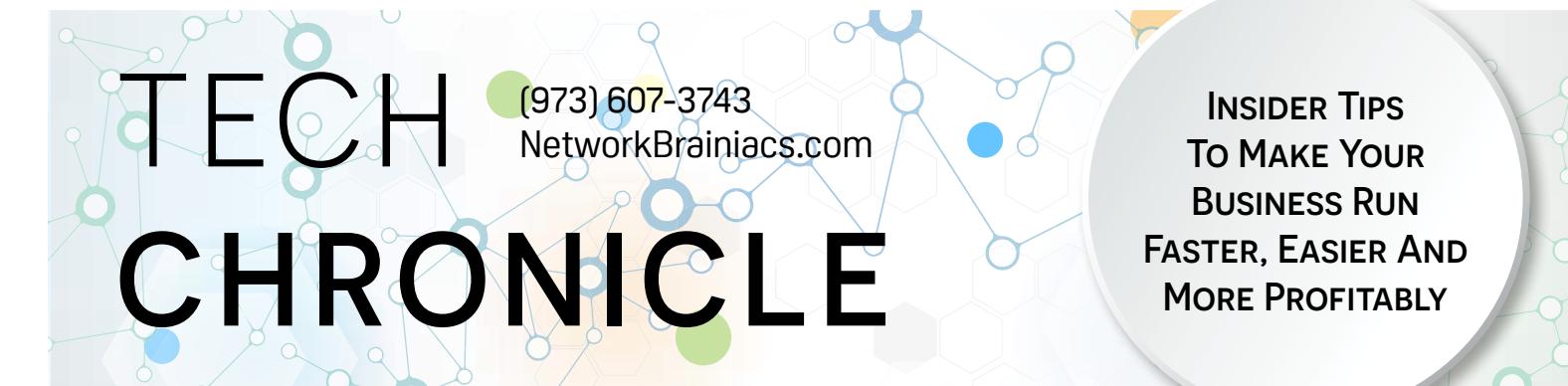


you. Read the privacy policy closely. If you can't customize data settings or companies aren't clear about how they use your data, shop elsewhere.

Tracking Devices For Kids

Tracking devices for children might seem like a thoughtful gift for families, but these devices

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UNREASONABLE HOSPITALITY

By Will Guidara

Will Guidara was only 26 when he took over the run-down brasserie Eleven Madison Park and transformed it into a Michelin three-star-winning, world-class restaurant within 11 years. His secret sauce? Over-the-top, out-of-the-box and exceptional hospitality that customers couldn't forget. *Unreasonable Hospitality* by Will Guidara offers valuable insights for business leaders who don't want to provide simple customer service but rather an extraordinary customer experience. His innovative strategies, like creating bespoke guest experiences and fostering a culture of thoughtful communication within his team, provide practical takeaways for any industry. This book encourages leaders to rethink how they engage with customers and employees, illustrating that extraordinary service can turn routine interactions into powerful, memorable experiences that drive long-term success.



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OUR MISSION:

To make life convenient for our clients through the seamless integration of technology, driven by a passion for serving others and an unwavering commitment to excellence.



As holiday travel picks up, hackers see a prime opportunity to exploit travelers who may let their guard down on their digital security. Security risks like phishing, public WiFi and lost devices can easily compromise your personal information during travel. But it's not just your data at stake – when employees let their guard down, they can unknowingly open the door to threats for their entire company.

According to World Travel Protection, only about 30% of companies require employees to follow basic cyber security measures while traveling.

INSIDER TIPS
TO MAKE YOUR
BUSINESS RUN
FASTER, EASIER AND
MORE PROFITABLY

Hackers Are Watching:

Follow These Simple Steps For Safe Holiday Traveling

This leaves a significant gap in protection, potentially exposing entire organizations to serious risks. Here's how to safeguard yourself and your business during busy holiday travel.

Safety Tips For Before, During And After A Trip

To avoid the stress of lost devices, stolen data or a security breach that could ruin your trip, make cyber security a priority by taking a few simple steps before, during and after your journey.

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Before Your Trip

- 1 **Update All Devices:** Software updates often include patches for security vulnerabilities.
- 2 **Back Up Important Data:** If your laptop containing vital client presentations is stolen, a cloud-based or other secure backup will allow you to get your data back without significant disruption.
- 3 **Use Multifactor Authentication (MFA):** MFA adds an extra layer of security by requiring more than just a password to access accounts. This makes it much harder for hackers to gain access, even if they have your password.
- 4 **Restrict Access To Sensitive Data:** If you don't need certain files or applications while on the road, temporarily remove access. This reduces the risk of compromised sensitive information if your device is stolen or hacked.
- 5 **Secure Your Devices:** Ensure all devices are password-protected and encrypted. Encryption scrambles your data, making it unreadable to unauthorized users.

Safe Practices While Traveling

- 1 **Avoid Public WiFi:** If you must connect, use a virtual private network (VPN) to

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Returning Home: Post-Travel Security Check

Security awareness doesn't stop once you get home. Sometimes, you don't know until you return that you've been hacked.

- 1 **Review Account Activity:** Once you're back home, review your accounts and look for unusual logins or transactions you didn't initiate.
- 2 **Change Passwords:** If you accessed sensitive information while traveling, it's a good idea to change your passwords when you get home. This ensures that any potential compromises during your trip don't lead to long-term issues.

Consider A Company-Wide Travel Policy

To further protect your business, consider implementing a company-wide travel cyber security policy. This policy should outline the expectations and procedures for employees traveling on business or working remotely. Key elements to include are:

- Guidelines for using public networks
- Reporting lost or stolen devices
- Responding to potential security incidents

Following these simple steps will significantly reduce travel-related cyber security risks and ensure that you can travel with peace of mind.

Genetic Testing Kits

In 2023, nearly 7 million 23andMe users had their ancestry data hacked – a stark reminder of the risks of genetic testing. Criminals are drawn to this highly sensitive data, and companies like Veritas and Ancestry.com have also faced breaches. Beyond theft, there's the issue of law enforcement's ability to access this information. Remember, once you spit into a test tube, you give away your genetic information, that of your close relatives and even future generations.

Give The Gift Of Your Undivided Attention With Notification Grouping



Constant notifications can be a relentless distraction, pulling you out of meaningful conversations. This holiday season, group your notifications to collapse multiple notifications and instead receive a summary and turn off topics you actually don't want to see.

Then devote that free time to your family and friends as you celebrate!

In your iPhone, go to Settings -> Notification and choose the app you want to get notifications from. Next, tap Notification Grouping. Then you can pick from Automatic, By App or Off. To group notifications, choose By App. For Android users: Go to Apps & Notifications in Settings. Tap to see the list of all your apps and pick the ones you want to group notifications for. Next, tap Notifications.

Then, look for an option called Notification Grouping or Bundled Notifications and turn this feature on or customize it based on how you want app notifications grouped. Voilà!

Marc Randolph Explains How To Get Your Company Thinking Like A Start-Up



ska band, created and sold a music-streaming service. Even teenagers are making waves in the business world. "I've found that the most disruptive people are not the A or B students," Randolph says. "They're the C students who managed to navigate the education system without having all the risk-taking squeezed out of them."

3 Embrace Risk, But Not Recklessness

A successful innovator embraces calculated risks that come from starting down a path without knowing exactly where it leads. "If you wait until you've figured out what's around the corner through analysis and research, someone's already beaten you there," Randolph advises.

4 Generate Ideas – Lots of Them

To innovate, you need more than just one good idea – you need hundreds. "It doesn't matter if they're big ideas or even particularly original ones," Randolph says. The Post-it Note, for example, which sells nearly a billion dollars' worth every year, wasn't groundbreaking but proved immensely successful. Knowing in advance if an idea is good or bad is impossible. The only way to find out is to take that risk, build something and put it to the test.

5 Confidence Is Key

Finally, you need confidence in your ideas, even when life gets in the way or others doubt you. "Everyone who has ever taken a shower has had an idea," Randolph quotes Nolan Bushnell, founder of Atari. "But it's the person who gets out of the shower, towels off and does something about it who makes the difference."