



## Gifts for Geeks

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It is that time of the year again. Year-end reviews, meeting billing goals, crappy weather, long lines, noisy kids, and shopping. Over the years, I have concluded that geeks are surprisingly easy to shop for. There are never a shortage of cool gifts to give to that special geek (or nerd) in your life. The following is a list of some gizmos and gadgets as well as some old-time classics.

### **USB Storage Carousel for CD/DVD:** (\$129)



If you are tired of CDs and DVDs taking up space in your office, den, etc., this solution is ideal. It is a computerized storage unit that holds up to 150 disks (multiple units can be used together and are stackable). The carousel connects to your PC via a USB connection and you can catalog the disks regarding content, title, key words, etc. The disks can be quickly searched and the carousel will find the disk you are looking for and pull-out the CD for you. The

unit protects disks from scratches and damage. Users can also use the computer index to store serial numbers for disks so that cases, boxes and pamphlets can simply be thrown-out.

<http://www.thinkgeek.com/gadgets/electronic/a533/>

### **Flash Drives:** (\$10 – \$100)



One thing that you can never have too many of are flash drives. They really are the perfect device. Small, portable, able to hold any kind of electronic information that you want and are even available with a lanyard string for carrying around your neck. If you want to impress a geek, then you should consider an upgraded USB drive. Two of my favorite

devices are USB keys with built-in finger print security scanner. These keys can only be accessed with a correct fingerprint scan (stores up to 10 different finger prints). The keys can also be super protected with a fingerprint + password option. The other USB Key that is admired by geeks is the Iron Key. This device is described as "the worlds

most secure flash drive." The device features a self-destruct mechanism that physically destroys the microchip if someone attempts to physically open the device or attempts other methods of hacking the device. The device is protected by a secure password and will self-destruct if the incorrect password is entered more than 10 times. The device also has the ability to perform periodic online back-ups that can be retrieved if the device is destroyed or erased. The device is currently used by high-level security officers in the U.S. military.

[http://www.kanguru.com/bio\\_aes.html](http://www.kanguru.com/bio_aes.html)

<http://tinyurl.com/5t32fh>

### **Eton FR400 Hand Crank Radio and Power Generator (\$60)**

This is an emergency radio that also has a flashlight, siren, cell phone charger, blinking light function, and similar models have short wave radio function (FR200) and solar power recharging option (FR150). The device has a built in battery that can be powered by AA batteries, AC adapter or a hand-crank. It weighs 1.5 pounds and is perfect for your home or car.



<http://tinyurl.com/6kdbjz>

### **Livescribe Digital Pen (\$120 - \$200)**



It looks, feels and works like a regular pen. However, this device has built-in sensors and memory that digitally records everything that you write and can even record audio from meetings or presentations. The pen can be synched with your computer via a USB cradle and will turn your hand written notes into searchable PDF files. The pens can even be trained by using a hand writing demo to recognize your handwriting (regardless of how messy it is) and can even turn your notes into text files.

<http://www.livescribe.com/>

### **R/C Laser Tag Shocking Tanks (\$50)**

Next time you have a disagreement with opposing counsel, simply ask them to settle the matter with a tank battle. This device comes with 2 remote controlled battery powered tanks that each have an infra-red cannon. The tanks then go to battle. When one tank hits another tank with its laser turrent, the person controlling the tank that got hit receive an electrical shock from their controller. Once a player receives 5 shocks, the battle is over and the issue is settled. I personally would like to see this device integrated into the ADR guidelines for Indiana as a less expensive alternative to arbitration. However, I am not holding my breath.



<http://www.thinkgeek.com/geektoys/rc/7485/>

## Clothing ? (\$30)



Here are 2 clothing options for geeks. The first shirt pictured here is not only undeniable awesome, but practical as well. Have you ever been in a building or shop and wondered whether you could pull-out your laptop and get on the internet? Of course you have – we all have. This shirt saves you a step. It is a battery powered wi-fi detector. The shirt will scan for local wi-fi connections and light-up when you are in range of a connection and will also display the strength of

the connection. The second t-shirt shown above is geek speak (i.e. whenever you go to the IP address 127.0.0.1, it will loop you back to your own machine – "home"). It is about as geeky as you can get without involving a lightsaber.

<http://www.thinkgeek.com/tshirts-apparel/unisex>

## Websites of the Month:

**Think Geek** "Stuff for the Smart Masses" – This website features gifts, toys, and all types of tech stuff for geeks and non-geeks alike. <http://www.thinkgeek.com/>

**Tokbox** – This website is a free Instant Message ("IM") website that has 2 unique features. First, users can combine multiple IM accounts into one space. If you have accounts on MSN Messenger, AOL, and/or Yahoo Messenger, you can combine all your accounts in one place. The second feature is that it allows web-based video IM functionality. Since it is web-based, no downloads are required and the website can be accessed from most office PCs. It essentially offers a free video-conference solution for up to 20 people. <http://www.tokbox.com/>