

TECH TIMES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Did You Know?



Every December, there's a mad dash in the tech world. It's like Black Friday, but for software updates. Programmers rush to push updates before the holidays, leading to what I like to call "Update-mas." It's the most wonderful time of the year... for your computer to ask for a restart.

Also, the first text message ever sent was in December 1992. It simply read "Merry Christmas." Talk about setting the tone for the future of concise holiday greetings!

Ah, December! The month where our screensavers turn to snowflakes, and our computers hum carols. It's a time when technology and holiday cheer collide in a jolly dance of pixels and tinsel.



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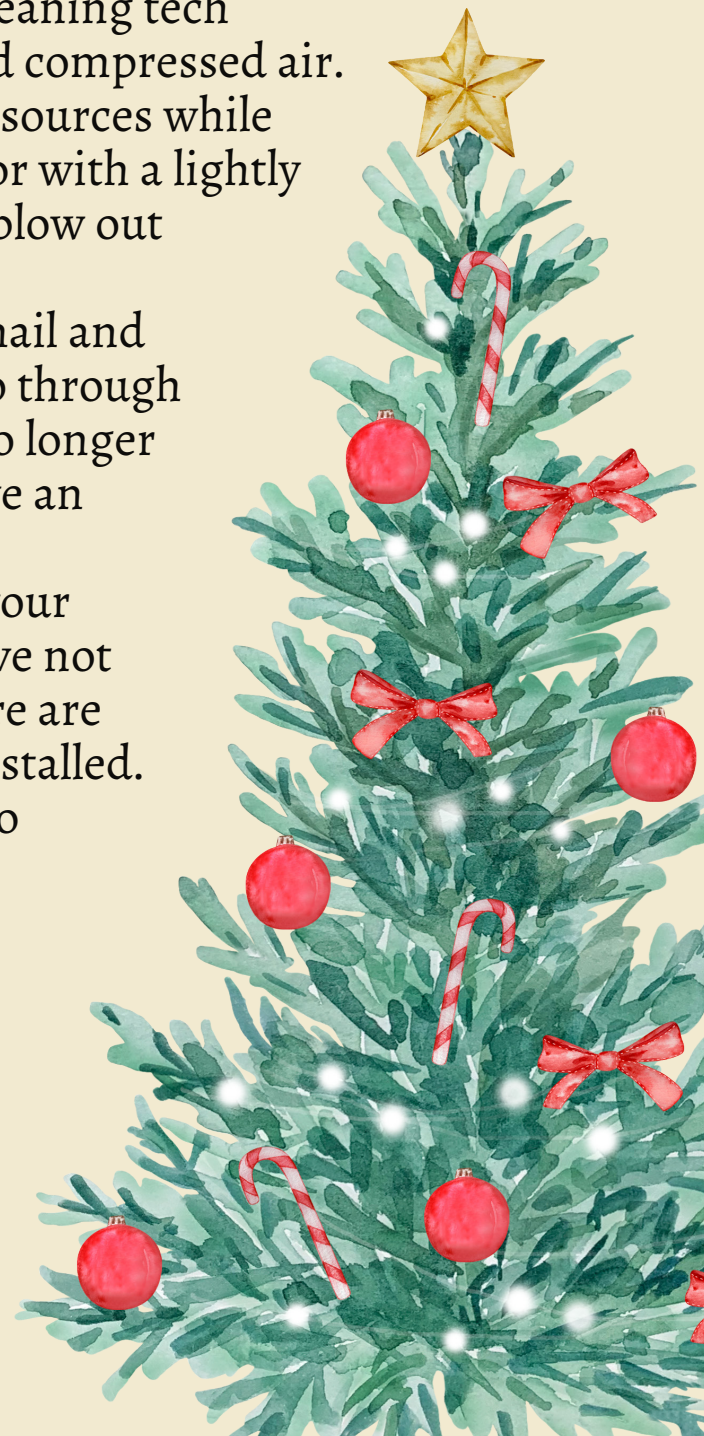
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End-of-Year Tech Tips

As the calendar year ticks to a close, it's the perfect time for a tech health check. Let's ensure your digital life is in top shape for the New Year:

1. Backup to Hard Drive, the Cloud, or Both - Decide if you want to back up your data to an external hard drive, the cloud storage, like your Google Drive, or both for extra security.
2. Allow updates for your school-issued devices - Leave devices powered on during the Christmas break (do not close the lid, put it to sleep, or shut it down). Keep it plugged in and connected to the internet.
3. Change passwords - Avoid using easily guessable passwords like birthdays or common words.
4. Clean your devices - Gather supplies. The best for cleaning tech devices are a microfiber cloth, isopropyl alcohol, and compressed air. Turn off your device and unplug it from any power sources while you are cleaning. Gently wipe the screen and exterior with a lightly dampened microfiber cloth. Use compressed air to blow out dust from keyboards, ports, and vents.
5. Unsubscribe from unwanted emails - Open your email and search for words like "subscribe" or "newsletter." Go through those emails and decide which subscriptions you no longer need and unsubscribe from them. Some emails have an unsubscribe link at the bottom.
6. Uninstall unused apps and software - Go through your device and uninstall apps and software that you have not used in awhile. Please note, some apps and software are installed by your administrator and cannot be uninstalled.
7. Free up storage space - Check your device storage to identify what's taking up the most space and delete unnecessary large files, duplicate photos, and anything unused.

Happy Holidays



Googley Holiday Activities:

- Virtual escape room: Create a holiday-themed escape room using Google Forms, with puzzles that lead participants to learn about different winter holiday traditions around the world.
- Digital cards: Use Google Slides to design and send out digital holiday cards to friends and family.
- Virtual scavenger hunt: Use Google Earth to create a "Dashing Through the Snow" scavenger hunt where participants find clues in different locations around the globe.
- "Magnetic" poetry: Create holiday-themed poetry using "magnetic" poetry templates in Google Slides or Google Docs.
- Holiday-themed games: Use Google Sites to find ready-made games like holiday Mad Libs, word scrambles, or a "Words in a Word" game using the letters in "Merry Christmas".

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