



Bryan's Wish List

What's on My Gadget Wish List During This Pandemic?

by Bryan Smith, LTCL Tech Coach

There aren't many gadgets that I want that I don't already have. Call me spoiled or entitled all you want... I call it effective prioritization of spending my money on toys that bring me joy. There's one item that's on my list that fits perfectly with some other gadgets that I acquired this year, and it also fills a need during this pandemic. In short, this gadget that I have my eyes on will help me leverage my mobile devices (cell phone, wireless earphones, etc.) that support wireless charging and also save me time in staying healthy. Any guesses? Well, read on...

But first, an apology. If you navigated to this week's column from the library's newsletter, then I effectively set a trap for you and it caught you. In the online world, it's called "clickbait", and my teasing introduction resulted in you clicking on the link to read more on this topic. If you are a regular consumer of our LTCL Tech Coach Corner Column, then I apologize even more, and I thank you for reading what our wonderful Tech Coaches compile for your reading pleasure. If this is your first look at our Tech Coach Corner Columns, then welcome, and GOTCHA! 😊

So, back to clickbait... I had someone ask me the other day about this term – what it meant and why they keep seeing things in their web browser that lure them into clicking on the links. You've probably seen things in your email or on a website like, "The Moneymaking Secret that Banks Don't Want You To Know" or "Eating This One Thing Each Day Will Make You Smarter and Thinner." It's a form of false advertisement that uses enticements that don't necessarily reflect what will be delivered.

What's the motivation for clickbait? Well, it's primary use is to drive traffic (eyeballs) to websites where there is additional information or products or services for sale. Very active websites will also gain ranking in web searches which means that they appear higher in the list from a web search, and possibly even onto the coveted "first page" of search results which are those that are returned first from a web search.

And because I don't want to lose sleep over someone feeling that I tricked them, I actually DO have such a gadget that's on my wish list... It's an ultraviolet sanitizer that I can put my cell phone, wallet, keys, credit cards, etc. into that gets rid of 99.9% of nasty bacteria and viruses on these things that I touch all day long. Some of these products only fit a cell phone while others are larger. I may place it right by my front door and just unload my pockets when I get home and load them up germ free when I leave. I'm especially attracted to the sanitizers that support wireless charging for my cell phone and earphones.

~~Black Friday~~... I mean Cyber Monday, look out, I'm coming for a UV sanitizer with wireless charging capability! Oh, and one more thing... Click [here](#) for a simple new technique that I just learned about that makes you look and feel younger in less than five minutes a day – you'll be astounded!

Call for Tech Coach Corner Columns

Over the last few months, the topics for these columns has come from one library patron. He graciously makes notes of technical topics that he hears and wants to know about. He shared this with me, and most them have become columns. What topics interest you? What terminology have you heard that you don't understand, and when you look it up on Google or somewhere else, you're even more befuddled? Please send your ideas/questions to us at techcoach@laketravislibrary.org.

Tech Coach Assistance

Tech Coaches are now providing remote Tech Coaching. Simply send an email to techcoach@laketravislibrary.org and one of our coaches will respond to assist you with any questions or challenges you may have.