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## Welcome to our 4th edition of Bits & Bytes!

After a long hiatus, a company name change, a rebranding of our business and the addition of new services, we have relented to the many requests to bring back our popular bi-weekly newsletter.

As a previous customer, associate or perhaps someone we've met at a networking event, we wanted to provide you with a short summary of technology news and events that may be of interest to you.

### BUY A COMPUTER NOW!

In the 2009 Federal Budget, the government has modified the tax write off criteria for purchasing new computers.

Previously, computers and technology purchased had to be written off as an expense over multiple years as a depreciation factor.

The new budget now allows for all computer purchases to be written off in the same year of purchase between January 27, 2009 and February 1, 2011.

This means that the Capital Cost Allowance of purchasing computers can be 100% applied in the same year it was purchased.

This did not and will not apply to leased equipment which already has a tax benefit.

More detailed information is available at [Department of Finance Canada](#)

Essentially, this opportunity allows for businesses who are investing in technology to benefit with a tax break.

### SCANNING ON THE GO!

With today's microtechnology, all aspects of digital recording has become faster, smaller and easier to use.

In the case of Scanning, whereby you take text or photographic images from a print media and convert them to a digital file, the devices have become fast and convenient.

Our top choice for convenience is the Planon pen scanner.



Models like the above unit from Planon look exactly like a large pen (about the width of a standard 8" page) and can store hundreds of pages of text or graphics in full colour with a simple swipe.

This type of scanner is rechargeable and portable to the extreme where you can keep it in your briefcase, purse or even pocket.

The big advantage is that this scanner can do all types of image storage from text, to full colour photographs.

[Planon RC800](#)

Page scanners have also come down in size, price and convenience.

A page scanner is a larger unit that allows you to feed pages into it. Unlike the pen scanner which

This may encourage spending which is the primary goal of the budget concession.

We have always targeted our system recommendations with a 3-5 year life cycle partially due to the accounting and tax structure available.



Coincidentally, technology from 3 years ago varies greatly from what is available today. Some examples include Dual or Quad core technologies, Terabyte(tb) sized harddrives, solid state technologies and larger high definition displays. These reasons combined with the write off makes it an ideal time to purchase technology especially if your equipment is more than 3 years old.

Our preferred hardware vendor, Signa Computer Solutions has a large selection of computers, notebooks and accessories to choose from and we encourage you to take a look at their specials.

### [Signa Custom Pcs](#)

The over all cost of a computer has significantly decreased over the past few years to a point where workstation classed PCs are extremely affordable.

Compared to the power and features available, today's computer prices are about 50% less than what they were 5-8 years ago.

That means that the value you get from today's computers is

can be used on books or magazines, page scanners are used primarily to transfer printed documents into digital format quickly and in a repetitive action.

This type of scanner also excels at scanning business cards directly into your contact management software due to the feeding mechanism that ensures accurate scan control.



The advantage of a page scanner is that they are more durable and generally faster than the pen scanners.

Pen scanners rely on the user's hand motion to swipe down the target pages, whereas a page scanner sits in a stable and steady manner while the paper passes through its optics.

### [Iriscan](#)

The last type of scanner available is a straight text scanner. This type is used strictly for taking notes and converting text into editable text documents that can be used by Microsoft Word or any other word processing application.



Using OCR (Optical Character Recognition) technology, the scanner translates what it "reads" into actual text and can store hundreds of pages that can be transferred to computer, pda, smartphone or any digital media for easy use and review.

### [Iriscan](#)

This being a dedicated device is very fast and very durable in terms lifespan of the unit.

The different models also allow for text-to-speech technology where the scanned text can be READ aloud to you for audio playback and have built in dictionaries and spellcheckers to verify the data.

tremendous compared to the older technologies.

Regardless of choice, if you are in need of portable data scanning, these choices run the latest technology and software to provide you efficient and convenient scanning.

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## SOUNDBYTES!

In today's edition, Jason and I talk about: **WHAT IS A FIREWALL?**



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