

# Ideas for your Christmas shopping list

Jason Schoolmeester,  
Treasurer, Law Society Northern Territory  
Kris Norrington  
Department of Justice



I know nobody wants to hear it, but Christmas really is just around the corner. We know you're busy with work and will struggle to find time to buy all of those basic gifts for the family. Here are Kris and Jason's tips for finding the right presents this year. If you get in early you will be able to order online and save those dreaded trips out to Casuarina Shopping Centre. You will also generally make a saving by shopping online, especially if you are buying direct from America while the Australian dollar is so high.

## **Kris' pick:** **For the Teenage Daughter**

### **Sony Dream Machine (ICF-CL75iP)**

Your teenage daughter will love an iPod dock. Problem is that there are far too many iPod docks out there to choose from. They are all pretty good. When choosing one it is important to work out what features you require such as: Am/Fm Radio, portability, clock radio, 3.5mm line-in for other MP3 players. The Sony Dream Machine has a good mix of features. It's an iPod Dock, a Radio, an Alarm Clock, a Digital Photo Frame and it also has Video Playback. You can pick one of these up for between \$235.00 and \$299.00.

## **Jason's pick:** **For the Teenage Daughter**

**Samsung SMXC14 Flash Video**  
2010 will be all about video. What better way to create video content

than the Samsung SMXC14 Flash Video: an ultra compact memory card camcorder. It features Samsung's unique 25 degree active angle lens which promotes a healthy hand position that eliminates wrist pain and fatigue.

The camcorder comes with the Samsung Intelli-Studio which facilitates uploading to popular video-sharing web sites. It even features a one-touch upload button to upload directly to YouTube.

This little camcorder has loads of features and records over six hours of footage to the 16GB of onboard storage or even more to your external SD memory card. As for price, you are looking at about \$400.00.

## **Kris' pick:** **For the Teenage Son**

**Call of Duty – Modern Warfare 2**  
Buy your teenage son *Call of Duty – Modern Warfare 2* for his *Playstation, Xbox or PC*.

Trust me; this will be the biggest game of 2010. Even after he finishes the single player game, the online game play is that good that there will be no need to buy any further games until *Modern Warfare 3* comes out in a few years time.

This game was due to be released on 10 November 2009 but it is likely to sell out so book your copy ASAP. Please note that there is animated violence so it's not suitable for

young children. Prices will vary between \$95.00 and \$110.00.

## **Jason's pick:** **For the Teenage Son**

### **ATH-ANC7b QuietPoint Noise-Cancelling headphones**

Invest in a pair of good quality headphones. I am not a big fan of in-ear headphones so I recommend the ATH-ANC7b QuietPoint Noise-Cancelling headphones (remember it is an investment in your son's future hearing).

Coming in their own case, these comfortable headphones have excellent noise cancellation and can be used even without the battery (just no noise cancelling). The headphone cable is detachable, letting you use them just as a noise blocker (great for studying). The detachable cable also means you can substitute it for an extra long cable. The headphones come standard with an airline adapter. Price is about \$200.00, look for Christmas specials.

## **Kris' pick** **For the Parents**

### **KODAK EasyShare M820 8" Digital Picture Frame**

A great tech present for Parents is a digital photo frame. There are so many to choose from. Make sure you get one with an SD card reader so you can expand its storage capacity and easily transfer images to the device. Other features can include video playback, remote control, Wi-Fi, touch screens and

the ability to play music. Prices can vary greatly. You can pay under \$100.00 to over \$800.00.

What I'd look for is one that just has an SD Card slot, a long power cord and looks fantastic. You don't need (and are unlikely to use) the other features. My pick is the KODAK EasyShare M820 8" Digital Picture Frame. It has a touch screen along the border so you don't put your grubby fingers on the viewing screen. It has 128Mb internal memory and SD Card reader. These are supposed to be over \$200.00 but I've seen them for under \$100.00 on EBay.

**J**ason's pick:  
**For the Parents**

**LogMeIn**

My pick for the parents is a little different to Kris. My suggestion is really targeted at those of us whose parents are embracing technology by actually having a home computer or two, but don't really get it. Those of us who get the regular phone call requesting IT support. My pick is a subscription to LogMeIn ([www.logmein.com](http://www.logmein.com)).

LogMeIn provides you with the ability to support your parents' computer without the travel. You can securely access their computers from anywhere in the world. You can avoid all the confusion and frustration of having your parents describe their problem or the screen they are looking at. I am not being rude and those that provide support know what I am

talking about.

Depending on the level solution you pick, you are looking at under \$300.00 for an annual subscription. I believe this is money well spent and your parents will be thankful that their computer support is now easy and painless.

**K**ris' pick:  
**For the Home**

**Logitech - Harmony One Advanced Universal Remote**

If you are sick of having half-a-dozen different remotes in the lounge room then this is the gift for you (or your partner). As the name suggests, the Harmony One replaces multiple remote controls with one single remote control for all of your media appliances. Programming the remote is quick and easy. You just plug it into your computer and select the devices you own and it downloads the settings for your specific appliance. Logitech have taken their brilliant universal remotes to another level with this rechargeable touch screen masterpiece. You can pick one of these up for between \$329.00 and \$399.00. You can also pick up a non-touch screen version that requires AA batteries for around \$100.00.

**J**ason's pick:  
**For the Home**

**AppleTV**

There are lots of digital media solutions being sold for the home and it can be hard to sort through

the myriad of options and pick one that is right for you. As part of my recent conversion to all things Apple, I also purchased an AppleTV. The simplest description I can give for this sleek looking device is that it is an iPod for your TV.

Now to be clear, the AppleTV will work with Macs and PCs. The AppleTV connects to your home network by standard Ethernet or to avoid all the cables, it can connect wirelessly. Once connected the AppleTV docks with your iTunes collection. With 160GB of storage you can download your content: music, movies, TV shows, podcasts, and photos. Once downloaded, you can navigate through the system with a very simple light weight remote. Or, if you have an iPod Touch or iPhone you can install a remote control program and use your iPod/iPhone as the remote.

The AppleTV will also connect to the internet through your home network. This enables you to access YouTube directly on your TV or shop at the online iTunes store for music and movies. For movies you can choose to rent or buy. An AppleTV will set you back about \$329.00

**K**ris' pick:  
**For Work**

**Kindle Global Wireless**

The Kindle Global Wireless is one of Amazon's latest generation eBook readers. Basically you can

download books directly from the Amazon website for a fraction of their print retail prices. It is free to connect to the web wirelessly. You don't require a PC and there are over 350,000 books to choose from.

The screen reads like real paper, even in direct sunlight. It's called E-ink. The screen is essentially shades of grey which draw a lot less power than colour screens. This allows the Kindle to run for up to a couple of weeks without needing to be charged.

But why would I get one for work you say? Well, the Kindle now reads converted PDF's. You can email them to Amazon and they will format them and send them to you. There is also software such as Mobipocket which allows PDF's to be converted to the Kindle friendly MOBI format. I'm keen to try to load some legislation on to one and then while at court you can read and search through the legislation for terms and words. There is also the DX Kindle which allows you to read native PDF's though it doesn't appear to have a carrier in Australia yet. You'll have to buy these from EBay or Amazon.com in America. They will cost around US\$259.00 for the basic Kindle.

### **J**ason's pick: **F**or Work

#### **Pulse Smartpen**

EBooks are awesome and I want one. I can see a time when all lawyers have one and we can access our documents and research materials wirelessly from anywhere in the world.

As an alternative to the Kindle, check out the BeBook. But Kris got in first, so my pick is the Pulse Smartpen by LiveScribe.

The Pulse Smartpen not only records what you write with an infrared camera but it can record and link the audio to what you write.

Pulse works using special paper, "Dot paper", which contains microdots allowing the infrared camera to track your pen movements. You can buy Dot paper notebooks or print your own.

The Pulse has a USB dock for your computer to upload your text and audio into the LiveScribe Desktop software. You can purchase the Pulse and the Dot paper at [www.officeworks.com.au](http://www.officeworks.com.au) for just under \$300.00.

### **K**ris' pick: **F**or that "I just want it" **p**resent

#### **Tachyon XC 2010 Helmet Cam**

My latest toy is a Tachyon XC 2010 helmet cam. It's a small waterproof, shock proof video camera that can be mounted to your helmet, scuba goggles or handlebars. It lets you record all of those hunting, fishing, trail-biking, canoeing and snorkelling expeditions. It records at 30 frames per second on a 90 degree lens. The battery life is amazing as it records to SD card so there are no moving parts. It's my new toy for summer, so watch out for my YouTube fishing and hunting trips in the future.

### **J**ason's pick: **F**or that "I just want it" **p**resent

#### **27" iMac**

This has been the hardest pick for me. I was initially trying to keep my pick in the same ballpark as the helmet cam. But what I just want is a 27" iMac. With edge to edge screen technology this next generation iMac is beautiful. I have a 20" iMac now and I am continually blown away by how easy computing at home has become. {

[www.lawsocietynt.asn.au](http://www.lawsocietynt.asn.au)