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Happy Holidays everyone! We're into the last few days before Christmas, and school is out for winter break. So if the kids are whining that the computer is slow, or you're nervous about the laptop your college-age brought back -- you know WHO to call!

I hope everyone has a chance to go out in the evening and look at holiday light displays. In the 21st Century, you don't have to wait for nightfall, you can look at YouTube videos! Some of the displays are fantastic, with dozens of light sets synchronized to holiday music, all controlled via a program identical in concept to an old-fashioned player piano roll, called [Light-O-Rama](#). Check out their website for everything, including [videos of their annual contest winners](#). The one which started it all a few years ago was set to the music of "Wizards in Winter" by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. [Click here](#) for the YouTube holiday lights videos with this music, or [click here](#) for some general Light-O-Rama videos on YouTube.

Did you know that December 26th is known in the UK and Canada as "Boxing Day"? It has nothing to do with fighting, rather, boxing up gifts you don't want, and returning them to the store!

CNN reported this morning ([Curb Appeal](#)) that home renovations don't pay off like they used to when it comes time to sell your home. In this down real estate market, curb appeal is king. You've got to get folks to first come inside, before they'll see all the interior renovations you may have done. According to CNN, the best exterior color is a sunny "light yellow". So get ready to work on 'curb appeal' in the spring. Meanwhile, winter is perfect for interior renovations like painting.

Stan the Paint Man <http://www.stanthepaintman.com>

Stan has owned his own business over 30 years, and does commercial as well as residential work. There are LOTS of painters out there, but I think Stan is unique. For his most recent BNI presentation, Stan brought in the different types of ladders and dropcloths he uses for both interior and exterior jobs. Whenever I've tried to do my own painting, my ladders and dropcloths have paint spots all over. But Stan's had no drips whatsoever! To me, that's a huge indicator of the experience and care he takes with each job. So if you've ever worried about paint

spots, contact Stan instead. (630) 235-1858 stan@stanthepaintman.com

If you have any last-minute questions on holiday technology purchases, just call toll free 1.877.I.T.NERDS (1-877-486-3737) or send an email to info@professionalnerds.com.

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