



ISSUE 4: FALL 2012

Welcome to The Weekly Geek

This is a new e-newsletter from the Information & Instructional Technology Departments at Dakota County Technical College. Each week will have a different technology related topic.

Your washing machine is making funny noises. Where did you put that owner's manual you got with it 12 years ago? You could call a repair person, and they will be there a week from next Tuesday. You do have tools in that box in the garage collecting dust – how hard can it be?

Before you tackle this project, look for a little help...ONLINE!

If you can think about it, someone has probably already made a how-to video or tutorial for it. Some of the contributors are experts in their areas and others are lawn chair inventors with too much free time.

Instructables

<http://www.instructables.com/>

This site has step-by-step photo tutorials, videos, and how-to guides for a wide variety of different projects. Need to know how to build your own tesla coil, make your kids homemade play-do, or create a duct tape top hat? You can find it on Instructables. It also has helpful how-to's such as appliance or home repairs, cleaning tips, cooking, and workshop ideas.

E-How

E-How is another tutorial site, but is divided up into different topic portals, here are a few:

E-How Home: Home improvement, gardening and landscaping, entertaining, decorating

<http://www.ehow.com/ehow-home/>

E-How Tech: Computers, electronics, web, home theater, and mobile technology

<http://www.ehow.com/ehow-tech/>

E-How Money: Personal finance, retirement, investing, career and business advice

<http://www.ehow.com/ehow-money/>

Wiki-How

<http://www.wikihow.com/Main-Page>

Wiki's are collaborative sites that allow any user to edit and add content. WikiHow calls itself the world's collaborative how-to manual. Currently the site has almost 150,000 how-to articles on every topic imaginable. Want to share your knowledge; you can add your own tutorials or articles on the site as well.

HowCast

<http://www.howcast.com/>

This site is like a YouTube site for how-to videos. Check this sit out if you prefer to watch someone show you the steps rather than read tutorials or other written instructions.

Questions or Topic Suggestions: Weekly.Geek@dctc.edu

An archive of The Weekly Geek: <http://blogs.dctc.edu/WeeklyGeek>