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The Holiday season is upon us and were faced with that age old question "What do I get that special someone in my life", or maybe just a little something for yourself. Here is my ultimate tech gift buying guide offering the most popular gadgets for the season.

Digital Video

For anyone who loves to capture videos of life events or some short clips, the Flip Ultra HD makes a perfect gift. Price range \$179 - \$199, check out www.puredigitalinc.com This compact flash memory camcorder shoots video at 720p. The internal memory allows you to store 2 hours of video and comes with installed software for editing which works on both Mac & Windows computers. Available at most retailers in standard black, this sleek device can be totally customized using your imagination.

For those looking for a compact camera which can also take digital pictures, the Sony Bloggie Touch may be the perfect choice. Price rage \$175 - \$199. www.sonystyle.com Available in 4GB & 8GB models The Bloggie Touch records video in both 720p and 1080p format and takes digital pictures in 12.8 megapixels. The Large touch screen LCD, USB and HDMI output are some of the features, available in Silver, Black, Blue & Pink. Now that you have started taking some great videos and pictures it is time to start sharing them with your friends and family. Many websites are available where you can upload your files.

Tablets

Popular this season are tablet devices such as the iPad www.apple.com, starting at \$499 it makes a great gift. Available in both Wi-Fi & 3G models it allows you to surf the net, check email, watch videos and much more. The 3G model was 1st launched on the AT&T wireless network and has most recently started being offered by Verizon Wireless using Wi-Fi connection. With thousands of apps available for download, the possibilities are endless. Apple is also offering free personal engraving on their website. With the iPad being the most popular, many tablets are being geared to compete for a share in the market. Samsung just launched the Galaxy Tab which offers most of the same features as the iPad and also supports Flash for a total web surfing experience. Available on all the major carriers (www.samsung.com), prices start at \$399.

Game Consoles

Home gaming systems are another popular item as the Nintendo Wii around \$119, Xbox 360 starting at \$199 and Playstation 3 around \$299 are available at most retailers and online.

All offer hours of fun for all ages, these game consoles implement the latest technology with many titles from sports, adventure to children's categories. This may be the perfect gift for the entire family to enjoy together

For the Office & Car

Lets not forget the place we spend most of our time, at work or driving to and from the office. Here are a few gift ideas which help make the daily grind just a bit more enjoyable.

USB Beverage Cooler: Yes you may have a break room, but have this mini cooler at your desk will make you the talk of the office. Around \$20 www.thinkgeek.com

USB Car Power Adapter: Plugs into your car cigarette lighter socket, providing a USB port to plug into for just \$7.99 www.thinkgeek.com

USB LED Lamp: Gives you that extra light to keep you alert. Around \$10 available at most retailers and online.

Bluetooth Cell Car Speaker: Connect your smartphone via Bluetooth and play calls and



Tech Gifts

music through your car's speakers via the built-in FM transmitter. Various models available starting around \$70 at retailers like BestBuy, Target and Walmart.

Portable Audio

With a wide selection of MP3 players available, here are a few ranking high in the market. The **Apple iPod Touch** which is available at most retailers starting at \$179 (www.apple.com) also lets you surf and check email with a Wi-Fi connection in addition to playing your favorite tunes. This makes a great gift for the teenagers in your life. Apple also makes other MP3 players such as the Nano starting at \$149 and Shuffle starting at \$49.99 which are popular as well.

The classic **SONY Walkman**, (definitely deserves a mention!) in tune with the MP3 generation available for around \$99.

Mobile Phones

Cell phones have come a long way in recent times with products like the iPhone (www.attwireless.com), HTC Evo (www.sprint.com) and Motorola Droid (www.verizonwireless.com). The evolution of the smart phone has put a mini computer in the palm of our hands allowing us to multi-task in the course of our busy life. Many features and plans are available so the best idea is to shop around to find what fits your style.

Stocking Stuffer Ideas

Here are a few budget friendly tech gifts sure to put a smile on someone's face, and remember ... it's the holidays, get a little something for yourself as well. You can also get a gift card, but where's the fun in that?!

- For the tool lover, the eTape Digital Measuring Tape makes a great pick for \$25 available at www.thinkgeek.com. It works like a regular tape measure, but digitally records the length so you can view on the screen.

The i.Sound Twin Charging Dock is perfect for

the household with multiple Apple devices. You can charge 2 iPhones or iPods at the same time clearing up the clutter of multiple chargers. Available for around \$50 at most retailers.

- Digital Photo frames are a great way to display your pictures. Many styles and models are available and start around \$20. Mini and portable frames can be mounted on your keychain or as luggage tag so you can take your pictures wherever you go.
- Belkin Travel USB Hub available at most retailers for around \$15. This gadget consolidates 4 devices into 1 USB port, great for the road warrior traveling the globe.



Photo courtesy Apple

