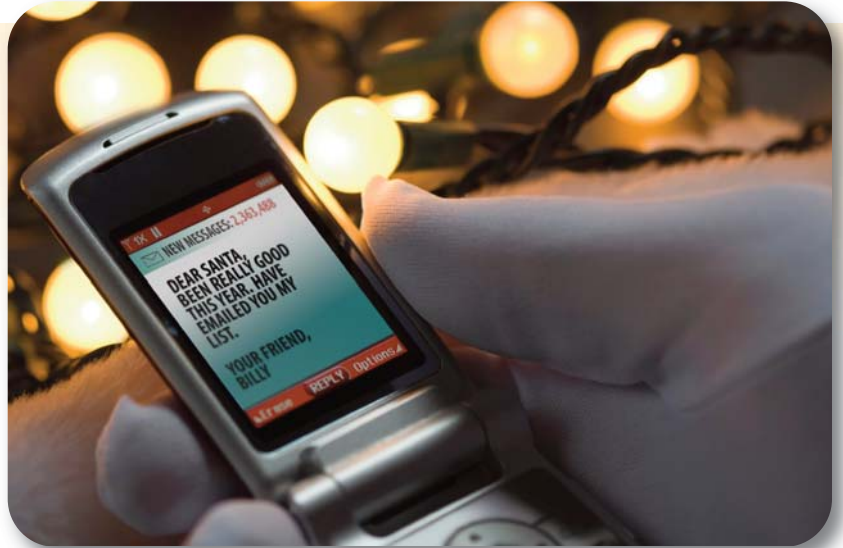


# Happy Holidays

As 2007 comes to a close, we at TriOpus Group want to thank our clients, partners and friends for another wonderful year. We wish you all the best this season brings, and a healthy, happy and prosperous new year. May the joy you feel during the holidays stay with you throughout 2008!



## Jake, a Cell Phone and a Christmas Moment By David Colman

I'm sure this Christmas's post mortem will sound a lot like those of years gone by. The manufacturers and merchants will bemoan the fact that sales could have been better and parents and grandparents will argue, as they have for decades, that Christmas is too commercial. Their argument will probably begin with, "When I was a kid..." The credit card hangover will no doubt remind us that it is indeed an expensive time for all.

Jake is a friend of mine. He's also my grandson. Recently, while working in Ontario, I got the chance to spend a weekend with the five year old along with his parents. Even though this visit was before the American Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and the Grey Cup Final, Christmas was on Jake's mind.

"Granddad", Jake wondered, holding the latest edition of a toy catalog, "could you ask Santa Claus to send me this toy for Christmas?" I suppose if Jake's father had asked me a similar question when he was a boy, I probably would have encouraged him to write a letter to the big guy at the North Pole. But without

thinking, I said, "Jake, I've got Santa's cell phone number and I'll give him a call if you like." Jake's face lit up. "Could you give me the number, granddad?" Quick as a flash I said, "He told me not to give it to anybody. He's very busy these days you know."

About a week later, I phoned Jake. Not so much as a "hello" from the little man. His first words were, "Did you call Santa Claus like you promised?" I assured him I had and that Santa would do all he could to bring him the toy he wanted. Jake beamed over the phone. He told me that he had told all his friends at school that his granddad had Santa's cell phone number. It was as if the cell phone number was more impressive to Jake than the Christmas toy.

It can be very easy to become cynical about Christmas, its commercialism, and its cost. It's equally as easy to be fatigued by the invasiveness of technology into our personal lives: the cell phone; the Blackberry; email and so on. As a child, I would be excited looking out my window on Christmas Eve to see if I

could see Santa Claus flying through the night sky. Today, for Jake, it may be something different. It could well be the fact that his granddad has a direct line to the bearded one.

Who knows if Jake will remember our brief discussions in years to come. Perhaps he won't. After all, his focus is now upon becoming one of the world's greatest hockey players. But the cell phone, that piece of technology that I don't want and can't live without all at the same time, for a moment, brought joy to a young lad called Jake.

And it gave me a 21st century Christmas moment!



**TriOpus Group**  
Shaping your company's talent

1-800-864-2721

