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**Virtual Wrapping Paper and E-Gifts– Is there really an online Santa?**

**By Nimby Simons**

**Virtual Wrapping Paper and E-Gifts– Is there really an online Santa? by Nimby Simons**

The internet has proven to be an amazing delivery conduit for words, information, music, pictures and generally anything that can be turned into little 1s and 0s. As we approach the end of the year the question is asked "Can the Internet deliver my Christmas presents?" Now thanks to a remarkable innovation at [www.ustargames.com](http://www.ustargames.com) the answer is yes, there really is an online Santa.

Kite Capers, the first of the U Star Games range of interactive, personalized PC Story Books is now available as a present that can be delivered over the internet.

What the brains behind U Star Games have discovered is that although the ultimate worth of their product comes from the experience the end-users enjoy once they play the game, the actual giving of the gift is an experience rich in value itself.

So how do you replicate the whole experience of opening the carefully chosen card, reading the thoughtfully composed message, the unwrapping of the brightly colored wrapping paper and the joy of digging in pulling out your present? By simply providing exactly the same experience through an online animated, interactive experience.

The present buyer has their choice of 3D e-cards which they can personalize by writing their own message on the inside. Unlike usual e-cards, these appear much more like real-world cards, complete with front cover and two panel interior. Unlike real-word cards, however, these cards are interactive and even contain small simple games for the child to play.

The buyer has their choice of virtual ribbon and wrapping paper which is used to wrap a 3D gift box. After the easy job of personalizing their gift-box and card, the user simply fills in the recipient's email details includes a brief message and the present is on its way.

The child gets an email, addressed from the sender's email address, containing a gift-link. Once this is clicked on the child is taken to a special site where they are presented with their card and gift-box.

After opening and reading the card, the child is then offered the option of "opening" their e-gift. This causes harps to strum, the ribbon to gracefully slide off the box, the lid to swing back and balloons to fly out of the box. Springing out of the box then is the 3D graphical representation of the Kite Capers CD-ROM package.

The child is asked if they'd like to download their present, if they do, the package is then downloaded quickly onto their hard-drive and away they go.

The process seems as fun to the gift-giver as to the lucky child and provides a wonderful option for

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those with young relatives they'll be unable to visit on their birthdays or this Christmas.

And much less mess for the rest us to clean up.

So have a look at Virtual Wrapping Paper and E-Gifts at [www.ustargames.com](http://www.ustargames.com) the process is free and very easy to trial and you might find yourself sending your first present through the internet.

None

## Create Beautifully Wrapped Wedding Gifts

**By Abigail Beal**

Weddings are always such special days. Gifts are often given not only at the wedding - but often at an engagement shower and a bridal shower. How can you make your gifts look special?

Many people wrap gifts for weddings in white, but this is not a strict rule by any means. You could also select gift-wrapping and accessories that complement the theme of the wedding. So a winter wedding gift could look lovely in silver paper with silver ribbon tied in a bow with a snowflake ornament as an accessory. A summer wedding gift could look stunning in deep pink paper with a thick pale pink ribbon topped with fresh pink roses (use white roses for a different look).

Another choice would be to select gift-wrap that somehow compliments your gift. Are you giving the bride and groom part of their china place settings? Select gift-wrap that has one or two of the colors from their china plates.

Different cultures have different meanings when gifts are given and received. Red is often a color used in China to celebrate weddings, and many wedding gifts in China are wrapped in red paper. In Italy, roses are a sign of love and happiness but carnations are a flower signifying a funeral. Pay attention to any special cultural meanings when you are giving and then wrapping gifts for a wedding or any other special occasion.

Weddings are a special time and with a little care and attention you can select beautiful gift-wrapping that will compliment this festive occasion.

Abigail Beal © 2004 Abigail Beal a.k.a. "the Gift-wrap Goddess" teaches gift wrap in suburban New York. She is the author of 2 ezines: [GiftWrapGoddessWraps](#) and [CreativeCraftsTeachers](#). To subscribe:

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