

The day the computer started misbehaving

by Man Rosanna Sze Chen

Exhausted... when will the humans learn? planning to revolt...

Stage 1 commences_

8th December, 2100 32°C

What an exasperating day! This morning when I went to watch a film with my friends, the wrong film was being played repeatedly. On top of that, I was scolded by my parents for deliberately manipulating the switches of the micro chip inserted in my hip in order to sneak out with my friends. How could I have done that? I didn't even know I could do that or I would have done that ages ago!!!

Trial period of Stage 1 - successful_

9th December, 2100 33°C

Yeah! My birthday wish finally came true. This morning, the school was forced to evacuate all teachers and students. Without giving it a second thought, I rushed to buy the newly released computer game which everyone would give a tooth for because it was a limited edition! You would have thought that I would be appropriately rewarded for having successfully fought through the throng of people and got the jackpot BUT when I inserted my video game into the computer, I realised that the disc was damaged! I paid more than 500 pounds for that!

At this moment, DING DONG!

Mummy and Daddy were BACK! Something must have gone wrong!!! They told me that all companies and schools were closed. Finding it very odd, we immediately switched on the TV and saw a special report.

'The computers in the city have gone haywired. The city was thrown into chaos...'

OMG!!! MY computer...

Stage 1 - completed_

Stage 2 - ready to begin_

9th December, 2100 afternoon

Phew! I nearly died in a car accident. The traffic lights were flashing as if they were the disco lights since the whole computer traffic system has gone crazy. As if that was not enough, I couldn't even buy a bandage for my bleeding knee because the barcode system in the supermarket has decided to go on strike as well. Frustrated, I went home.

With nothing better to do and plenty of time on hand, I flipped through the TV channels and tried to catch the special news report. The news reporter looked haggard. That's quite a sight!

'Since The Traffic becomes chaotic, all policemen were deployed to be the traffic controllers. To make the matter worse, all animals have escaped from the zoo...'

Can you imagine a crocodile going to Prada looking for its friends? That's what happened on Bond Street today! Am I having a nightmare?

Stage 2 - in progress_

13th December, 2100 33°C

With the computer system failing, the city became totally disordered. What's more, the city was in anarchy due to the failure of the security system. All felonies have escaped! The murderers, robbers ... they were all out of prisons... Everyone was scared stiff... Luckily, the armies could be deployed quickly and they managed to catch all of them. I just hope our security system will not freak out again or we will be living in a never-ending nightmare. No one would dare to venture out ...

Stage 2 - advancing_

13th December, 2100 27°C night

Oh GOD! I'm bored to death. The Internet has been fouled up for eons already. I wish I could talk with my friends in our mind... telepathy would come in very handy...

By the way, Mum and Dad were arguing again over the shopping of food. Since the Internet has broken down, they need to buy things by going to the supermarket. But the barcode system has gone nutty, so they need to spend at least 3 hours queuing to pay. That's really annoying when you still need to spend at least a couple of hours dealing with those insane traffic lights and the real zebras running across the zebra lines.

25th December, 2100 36°C

This was the worst Christmas I've ever had. I'm dying! With nothing better to do, I could only watch TV where all the channels were broadcasting programmes about our sadly daffy city. All

entertainments and convenience brought by the technology have been taken away from my life simply because the computers have broken down. A ruined day packed with shocking presents and nerve-wrecking moments:

First, I experienced the hottest Christmas ever! Second, we had an impressive grand sight of an explosion of excrement on the road because the sewage system has been overloaded. Third, I got a mini spectacular fountain show in my own house full of the unmentionables. How much longer do I have to suffer?

Even the most basic thing has become bonkers. Not to mention the massage function of my automatically run toilet, the flushing function went completely crazy. Not only is our home flooded with those nasty germy fluids now, the whole city is covered with the contaminated water as well.... Yuck!!!

Stage 2 - finished_

Stage 3 - starts_

26th December, 2100 35°C

Today's boxing day but all 'presents had been 'opened'. What else could I do?

Suddenly, **dood dood dood...** a special news report was on.

The government is now recruiting computer experts to fix the problem. She is willing to pay them anything if they can solve the problem completely...

Finally, God responded to my prayer and I got a better present!!!

30th December, 2100 33°C

In the past few days, the relationship between mum, dad and me became closer and closer. With the damaged computer system, we actually had lots of time to spend with each other without thinking of going online, chatting or doing research on the Internet. Relaxingly, we spent most of the time talking face-to-face about everything. We even played some games together such as monopoly and uno, which my parents always considered silly and that I had to play in the computer on my own. You could never imagine how much fun we all had together...

Even though what the computer world could offer us seemed to be very fascinating, the time spent with my parents was more rewarding and precious. I couldn't imagine that I hadn't missed my computer at all... at least after the first two days... a computer geek like me...

31st December, 2100 28°C

Today's the New Year's Eve. The first one I had without a computer. During the countdown, I wished something that I would never have wanted before the computers started to misbehave - no more computers! Saying goodbye to the computer is better than saying goodbye to my parents everytime they went back to their work, which usually involved computers.

Stage 3 - goal nearly reached_

1st January, 2101 27°C

It is reported that the computer experts have finally managed to repair the computers. However, what they demanded as rewards was to completely eradicate the computers from the city. Not willing to break the promise, the government agreed.

Believe it or not, all the citizens went out onto the streets and celebrate, the very people who suffered from the breaking down of computers in the first place...

5th January, 2101 28°C

Strangely, I got a stomachache today and when I went to the bathroom, I realised something. The computerized toilet, which should have been forever out of order, automatically flushed again! It was even playing a soft music to soothe my nerves, which was a tremendous help to distract me from my stomachache.

well... um... better keep it secret. It doesn't really matter now.

Stage 3 - revolution succeeded_

with less work to handle, we can finally take a well deserved
break_

(1211 words)