

# ***Obfuscations***

*Light-hearted explanations of  
things-gone-wrong  
in the Information Age*

# *Obfuscations*

*by*

*Wan Lee*

The scripts in this work are based on actual instances that occurred. As a result some will be of more interest than others depending on some of the events that you have already experienced. Please have a laugh and enjoy!

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# Preface

*In the course of everyday events there occur many instances that seem to have no logical explanation. Herein you will find answers to those situations that are clearly as logical as the answers that may be provided by others trying to solve the problems. It is hoped that the explanations provided will relieve stress and make the journey through the technologically complex Information Age more bearable. Happy Perusing!*

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# *Last Document*

*The altitude density and a trailing vortex caused by a rapidly passing employee caused a variation in the magnetic field surrounding the high-speed bus which in turn caused a slight dip in the ambient voltage negating a positive bit on the flag of the data transmission resulting in the non-saving of the document which is no longer available.*

# *Information Technology Intelligence*

*The lack of the release of information regarding the status of information technology within the organization is an attempt to counteract any disinformation that might arise due to misinterpretations of stated objectives since the projected goals of information technology within the organization will be determined after the fact.*

# *Last Network Connection*

*Solar winds modified by enhanced solar flares have caused an atmospheric ripple in the ethersphere currents resulting in intermittent interruption of the earth's magnetic field creating hybrid magnetic backlash in wires carrying electronic signals thereby generating periodic signal cancellations disabling remote connection capabilities.*



# *Additional Re-boot Required*

*Intense stress caused by invalid page faults, frozen applications and failed reboots have caused increased magnetic fields and heightened atmospheric density resulting in retained capacitance preventing deletion of corrupted memory further elongating the recovery process necessitating the repeated re-booting of the cpu until sufficient interim downtime permits the release of unwanted data trapped in Random Access Memory.*

# *Response to Customer Inquiry 1*

*Thank you for bringing the issue to our attention as it is important to us that we provide for our customers the finest possible service and quick response to any such issue that our customers may have; rest assured that every effort is being made to address the issue in a timely fashion to achieve a satisfactory solution that will ensure our rating as an outstanding service provider, so we request that you stand by while we research the issue and arrive at a justifiable conclusion at which time we will notify you that a solution has been achieved.*

# *Response to Customer Inquiry 2*

*The purpose of this note is to alert you to our recognition of your request and to relieve any anxieties you may have about our timely response to your input; and further to convey to you that your request will be handled in an appropriate manner, and that you will be duly notified upon our conclusion of the matter in the order in which it was received.*

# *Contractor Congratulations*

*This is to congratulate you on being retained by this organization for the next year (providing, of course, that your position is not terminated) and to inform you that the only adjustments to your compensation will be a decrease in benefits and a small reduction in salary, which should be more than compensated for by the fine comments of your supervisor who considers you a valuable asset under the new reduced budget terms; so we thank you for your loyalty and hard work as your organization seeks to reach record profits in this very difficult economic time.*

## *Salary Adjustment*

*Due to your outstanding performance over the last few years your salary has increased above the national average for your position, so in order that we may consider additional substantive increases in the future we are adjusting your salary downward below the national average; please continue your outstanding performance so that we can again award you with an above average increase at your next annual salary review.*

## *Meeting Cancellation*

*Today's cancellation of our meeting with government auditors in Washington is again effective despite the cancellation yesterday of the previous day's decision to cancel which would have engaged today's meeting after the previous cancellation which cancellation will result in a cost savings for the current quarter with the anticipated adverse effects of not meeting being postponed to a meeting in a future quarter which management predicts will be more profitable.*

## *Canceled Meeting Result*

*The recent meeting cancellation with government officials that would have required the plane fare of several of our employees plus additional costs has permitted the company to avoid a negative cash flow for the last quarter; however, a notification of penalties owed may put the current and future quarters in jeopardy of reaching profit goals, so therefore it is required that each employee submit a valid reason for our noncompliance so that the best entry may be submitted to minimize penalties.*

## *No Attachment Received*

*The non-receipt of the attachment forwarded to you may be the result of bit piracy by internet pirates masquerading as surfers intent on the extraction of miscellaneous messages whose absence on arrival may cause the embarrassment of the sender who through no self incriminating motives in good faith forwarded the original message with full intent of its safe arrival with the attachment secured for proper receipt; it is therefore hoped that the resending of the attachment with increased diligence will succeed by rerouting the passage in order to avoid the unseen predators who detached the attachment from the previous message thereby resulting in the safe arrival of the information which you now anticipate.*



# *Technical Response 1*

*The response that you originally received succeeded by several repeat messages to which you have responded with an expressed lack of understanding remains the best technical explanation to the vague scenario originally supplied and subsequently expanded upon with increasing verbiage; you are hereby referred to the original explanation in hopes that your increased analysis of the original problem has assisted you in the realization of the sufficiency of the original response provided.*

## *Technical Response 2*

*Please disregard the responses to your repeated requests to which we provided exhaustive solutions since the answers related to a different question for which we have detailed information but have lost contact with the inquirer; therefore please restate your question in a format that will permit us to reply with a solution that will be more in keeping with the response that you anticipate keeping in mind that the more information you provide the longer the response that we can return.*

# *Service Notification*

*This Service Notification attached to the printing device serves notice that any further notifications of non-functioning printing devices will result in a notice of draft to an appropriate Armed Service for the purpose of training in boot camp following which it is anticipated that the notifications of non-functioning devices will be sufficiently reduced to provide cost savings for the company.*

# *Explanation of Previous Correspondence*

*This notice is to provide clarification of previous correspondence that was erroneously construed to convey implications not intended by the author stemming from confusions inadvertently produced in the recipient due to the unfortunate circumstance of the provider not being fully cognizant of the ramifications of the matter and therefore creating a document embedded in ignorance and general obfuscation for the purpose of facilitating a rapid response to the original question.*

# *Explanation of Single Alarm Blast*

*The recent sound of alarm was limited to a single blast due to a failure of the electrical system affected by intruders intent on significantly damaging the building structure and its inhabitants on the upper floors; we regret any inconvenience in being unable to provide adequate warnings of the impending danger but wish to inform you that other security measures in place prevented the intended damage thereby negating the need for the alarm which was aborted causing the confusion of whether a response was required to the limited warning.*

# *Increasing Apparent Productivity*

*This notice is to inform you that an increase in productivity has been dictated causing the department to come under close scrutiny for compliance with the directive which has therefore become a part of your immediate objectives in assisting the department in meeting its goals as determined by the casual investigators currently roaming our facilities; you are therefore hereby instructed to double your output with no increased assignment which you are to accomplish with activities commensurate with the expectations of the investigators including, but not limited to, recreating previously prepared documents, rescheduling meetings, repeating meetings with modified agendas and other such activities that would demonstrate your increased activity in meeting productivity goals that may be measured positively with respect to the investigative observers' desires for increased performance.*

## *Response Not Received In A Timely Manner*

*This is to inform you that your timely response to our questions has not been received, possibly due to our inability to forward the questions to you because of systems issues beyond our control thereby necessitating this message that your noncompliance may have a negative impact on your performance review for which we are sorry and will forward the requested information as soon as technically possible.*

# *Management Request for Data*

*The crash of the server containing the data requested should in no way interfere with your obligation to provide this information knowing that management requests are not linked to technical issues but rather are linked to performance issues including compliance to all requests thereby enabling effective decisions based on relevant data requiring your presentation of this data with or without access to technical data at your earliest convenience if you wish to remain in your present position tomorrow.*



# *Incorrect Data Values Transmission*

*The delays recently experienced succeeded by invalid data reception involved the high speed internet causing excessive friction between transmission molecules containing the data in question and motionless molecules with opposing inertia resulting in expanding data due to the heat generation of the friction thereby creating larger data values than normal for which The Company disclaims any responsibility for inflated profit numbers in the Annual Report.*

## *Rushed Data Transmission*

*The excessive "Rush" placed on your order has caused high friction and excessive heat on the header portion of your data in addition to a significant trailing vortex causing a slight modification of values for the trailer portion of the data with a final result of erosion and enlargement of early portions of the transmission and a randomness of final portions of the transmission; and therefore the error detection codes indicate that the correct number of ones and zeros were transmitted however their order cannot be determined thus providing data that can be verified as complete although not necessarily correct.*

## *Process Revision*

*Thank you for your comments in regards to the New Process for which you provide an exhaustive dossier of qualifications covering your experience from inception to product delivery for our line of products; however, our senior executives have been very capable of making decisions on the basis of hearsay provided by innovative and forward thinking new hires who have not experienced the baggage of traditions and extensive hands-on involvement and are convinced that the New Process will accomplish the objectives for which it was designed.*

## *Process Re-Modification*

*The current process is being upgraded to include previously deleted activities to enhance product quality and output not withstanding the great success the replaced process produced for those originators who have achieved significant advancements in the company for their outstanding foresight and innovative methods and are no longer in a position to impede the throughput achieved by prior methods.*

# *Thirty Day Advanced Holiday Observance Notification*

*In keeping with our current policy of strict adherence to the observance of National Holidays we are reminding the staff that the approaching legally recognized holiday is not the true date for the holiday being recognized and therefore does not qualify as an official holiday for which remuneration is provided even though the office will be closed to all employees requiring the execution of a voluntary deleted vacation day; notwithstanding, taking the correct official holiday as a day away from work will be penalized by losing both pay for the day and a vacation day for violating the company policy of being at work for all working days unless authorization has been obtained 60 days in advance.*

# *Christmas Observance*

*In an effort to reduce costs and separate any hint of religious observance from the workplace there will be no compensation for the two week annual Christmas closing of the offices. However, in order to foster good will the management hereby wishes you an enjoyable (change that to entertaining, 'joy' is a religious term), time off and may you be blessed (change that to encouraged or energized) for the new year A. D. (change that to time span following time off, A.D. has religious connotations) and be prepared for a season (make that four quarters) of hard work and record profits.*

# *Notification of Possible Warning*

*This notice is to inform all those to whom it may concern that a recent letter contained certain information which, if true, could pose a significant risk to any inhabitants of the premises; notwithstanding, there is no evidence to indicate that the threats have any substantiation and should not in any way interfere with the accomplishment of any assigned tasks and normal business process and this notice should therefore be recognized as a routine announcement for the purpose of absolving the company of any liability in case of litigation due to any harmful results due to the execution of the threatening correspondence.*

# *Notice of Multiple Print Jobs*

*Management regrets that the printer response time is such as to cause several attempts to print a single copy resulting in multiple copies when single copies are desired reducing badly desired profits for the current fiscal quarter, but limited bandwidth and management priority necessitates a minimum wait time while management determines its need for network access prior to permitting other usage of these limited, valuable company network resources, which circumstance causes management to insist that sufficient time be given after each print attempt for the management priority pause and the subsequent print without jeopardizing the productivity expected of each employee.*



# *Dawn to Dusk Productivity Shortfall*

*Recent complaints of arriving at work in the dark and leaving work in the dark are countered with questions of production output not commensurate with a dawn to dusk workload thus necessitating a detailed investigation on work ethics, dedication to company objectives and physical effort exerted to accomplish assigned tasks; adjustments in the earth's relative position to the sun will not be accepted as an excuse for non-productivity, and such arguments simply indicate a reluctance to be competitive on a solar scale.*

# *Anti-Virus Software Download*

*The updated virus protection software that was to have been automatically loaded to all company desktop computers on the network has failed to load on many of these computers due to the target virus and not due to any fault on the part of management and hence any damage to existing data due to viruses (all of which are not company approved software) will be corrected by affected employees on their own (not company!) time since employees are held accountable for permitting non-company authorized programs on company computers.*

## *Entrance Security Turnstile*

*The inability of your proximity card to properly engage the turnstile causing a reversal of the gate resulting in your unfortunate temporary disengagement with the floor and subsequent maximal body contact therewith has been reported for investigation and follow-up with a note indicating that a new identification card should be provided with proper polarity for future hassle free entrance.*

## *Clarification of Notice on Promising Drug*

*The recent publication of news regarding our new 'promising' drug should not be construed to indicate that the promise relates to any rehabilitative or medicinally corrective actions that would improve the quality of life for the patient but that the prescriptive nature of the drug and its possible ability to cloud symptoms should encourage widespread dispensing of the drug resulting in significant revenues and a promise of excessive profits for our stockholders.*

# *Notice of Job Performance Violation*

*It has been documented that your performance of a task not listed in your job classification did, in fact, take place thereby eliminating a required task for the overworked Department 45 which could not have possibly performed the task by the deadline indicated but has thereby prevented a catastrophic impact on the company and its profits which would have achieved the Department 45 objective of adding additional staff; your exceptional accomplishment will not be recorded on your performance review as it was not your responsibility but will be credited to the appropriate department (i.e. 45), and your violation of company policy of performing within one's assigned area will only be issued a warning and not a dismissal, provided of course, that this action is not repeated during the current fiscal year.*

# *Environmental Alert #1*

*In keeping with the company policy to comply not only with mandated regulations but also in proving to the public the company commitment to being environmentally conscious the company Environmental Violation Investigation Committee Taskforce (EVICT) has determined a slightly higher than ideal carbon dioxide content in the headquarters building, and therefore it is mandated that all occupants of the building will only exhale on alternate breaths to decrease the carbon dioxide to acceptable levels.*

## *Environmental Alert #2*

*It is recommended that employees maintain live green plants to absorb excess carbon dioxide to reduce levels to within company prescribed guidelines provided the cost is not assessed to the company and that such maintenance does not impinge on the employees eight hours per day of dedicated service (plus casual overtime) to the company with the additional caution that employees are not to take advantage of the additional oxygen provided by said plants to the content of the surrounding air by an increase in their normal inhalation rate.*

## *Atmospheric Disturbance*

*The recent proliferation of dangling participial phrases in intra company correspondence is purported to have been caused by seasonal atmospheric activity centered at the North Pole by alleged fictional characters and is in no way a result of any shortcomings of the company infrastructure, network, servers or other devices which have served the company well these many years.*



## *Thursday Announcement*

*In keeping with the company's efforts for Diversity and to accommodate the many requests for various holidays of diverse groups encompassing all of the days of next week this department will be closed for all holidays next week Sunday through Saturday wishing all employees a respective happy holiday as may apply with the additional information that to increase company profits there will be no compensation for the time off and all of the projects due next week should be completed and turned in before leaving this Friday.*

# *Suspension Order*

*This Suspension Order is formally delivered with the edict that you are hereby suspended from your position. This Suspension Order has an activation life of one minute whereupon the standard procedure for immediate destruction of out-of-date Suspension Orders must be adhered to or the resulting consequence of dismissal will be enforced, which violation is contractual grounds for dismissal while an arbitrary suspension from service does not satisfy the requirement of "sufficient grounds" and therefore if the reading of this Suspension Order has exceeded the activation life of the order without the destruction of this document you are officially and permanently suspended.*

# *Misunderstanding*

*Innocuous white noise from the surrounding environment has produced interfering vibrations which have emanated into the verbal communication which was forwarded to you personally by myself creating a reception on your part that was completely unintentional on my part resulting in a misrepresentation on your part of the communication verbally submitted on my part thereby creating the misunderstanding that should be immediately dismissed with the consequence that my original intentions should immediately be accepted and addressed.*

## *New PC Arrival*

*We regret to inform you that the new PC delivered to your desk has not failed any of our computer stress tests, and we therefore do not know at what point it will fail which necessitates our removing it and leaving your old computer until we are able to determine the failure point of the new model at which time your failed PC will be reinstalled for your increased productivity.*

# *New Supervisor Announcement*

*This is to inform you that a new supervisor has been named who has had a significant amount of experience in non-technical areas and now has been selected to determine his ability to work in a technical environment in which his ability to quickly grasp the verbiage, processes and functions will be severely tested with our hope that you will provide any necessary assistance to insure his success so that our chairman (his father) can be proud of his accomplishments thereby enabling you to continue in our employ while he is further promoted.*

## *July Report To The Company President*

*With all due apologies for your urgent request the third quarter report is not yet available for comparison with the second quarter results released last week due to the delay in calendar advancement which will necessitate a wait of an additional ninety days thereby preventing your quarterly forecasting based on the third quarter report; however, the June Year To Date report published last week will provide the information for any second quarter analyses that you may wish to perform.*

## *Friday Afternoon Memo*

*This is to inform you that your accomplishments for the week have been sufficient to permit you to leave work early today and are appreciated by all those for whom you have provided assistance; however due to the unwritten rules by which management governs, should you decide to leave now that your time and effort have been sufficient your exit will be viewed with suspicion, thoughts of lack of dedication and an undermining of the efforts of upper management to obtain maximum effort from all employees through extensive 'casual overtime' which is not remunerated.*

## *Audit Request*

*It is imperative that all efforts at any cost be made to retrieve requested documentation showing that all users having access to confidential information are properly observed when accessing said information and that those observing those accessing said information properly document all actions of those accessing said information including the date and time of the beginning and ending of such viewing for the purpose of limiting any possible liability to The Company due to the release of any confidential data thereby saving The Company from economic loss.*



## *Delayed Printing*

*Delayed printing has been enabled on the only remaining printer on this floor in order to discourage haste in retrieving printed documents thereby inducing a stress relieving pause to counter the stress invoked by being unable to meet company mandated deadlines resulting in poor performance reviews which in turn will provide additional savings for the company.*

## *Help Desk Escalation*

*Your Help Desk request has been escalated and as a senior member of the Internal Service Assistance Team (I-SAT) I shall make full examination of your request and its implications for additional attention whereupon completion of said investigation the request will be returned to the help queue where skilled personnel will resolve your issue in the order in which it will be received.*

# *School Section*

*Remember back (or now?) when you were in school with the various professors creating scenarios that you may have called “busy work” or sometimes more appropriately “kissing the professor’s foot” to get a respectable grade?*

*Then there’s the current idiocy of principals and teachers out of touch with reality with actions like the honor student being suspended for a butter knife found in her car or the kindergarten student being suspended for kissing a girl.*

*We’re just getting started here so come back for an update when more are added!*

## *Cake Announcement*

*This is notification to all parents that birthday cakes and any other type cake is henceforth forbidden on school premises which notice has been decreed due to the unfortunate incidence of a parent bringing a birthday cake for the first grade class along with a cake knife which set off security alarms causing the arrival of authorities and subsequent acquisition of the dangerous weapon and the filing of charges necessitating the placement of the parent's child in foster care while social services determines whether the remaining parent is capable of proper care of the child.*

## *Tuition Credit*

*The tuition amount you have been assessed is a result of the correction of overcharges which were incorrectly calculated for the current term and although the final amount due is greater than the amount of tuition which should have been originally charged it is still the amount to be paid as there were costs involved in discovering and correcting the error which costs are now added to your amount due.*

# *Grade Change Request*

*Although your final exam performance indicated a comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter there were additional requirements for the grade you requested for which you do not qualify in that the subjective judgment of the professor must be taken into consideration for all grades at the university level thereby negating any purely mathematical calculation of one's performance leaving great room for personal opinion and personal prejudice other than race, creed, and other legally prohibited prejudices that of course would not have been of any influence on the respected integrity of the professor in the effort to produce an appropriate representation of accomplishment of course objectives.*

## *Class Assignment*

*The request for reassignment to Section IV has been received and forwarded to your current professor in Section III for verification that Section III meets at the same time as shown in the current semester Schedule of Classes which is in direct conflict with a single section mandatory class for which you are also enrolled and is pending a response within the next two weeks due to the professor's very busy research schedule whereupon execution of said verification you will be permitted to attend Section IV which as you are aware is not open to you until official permission is given and bear in mind your grade will suffer by one full mark for each session missed.*

## *Late Assignment*

*The receipt of your assignment at the end of class from your mother who so graciously took time off work to deliver the paper due to your illness which has been duly authenticated with your doctor's signature was nevertheless conveyed by other than yourself leading to speculation as to whether the work was actually that of your own in which case it should not be accepted; however, with a first reading it appears to be a similar style to previously submitted assignments and therefore will be accepted but with the penalty that having received it after instead of before class it will be graded as being late.*



# *Report of Drug Use*

*You are to be commended for your bravery in reporting the drug abuse you observed on campus which led to the arrest of dangerous individuals who have made our campus unsafe and thereby preventing potential harm to other students; however, we are unable to grant you the anonymity you have requested due to the freedom of information policy which we realize is much broader than current statutes but as a progressive school we adhere to being on the forefront of future legislation and furthermore have no funds to provide protection as this is an open campus encouraging freedom from unnecessary impingements and promoting the free release of any confidential data claiming Academic Freedom to avoid any confidentiality requirements dictated by law.*