

Networks on the Edge

The naive user's vision of 2031

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Spam

- Number of unwanted e-mails carried each day by world networks:
4.2 nano googols (10^{91})
- Inter-arrival spam gap at the client hyper nailtop:
0.42 pico seconds
- Signal to noise ratio (wanted/undesirable):
42 independent studies failed to detect a discernible signal

Bot wars

- After the final defeat of the anti-Bot Jedi knights – despite the valiant (but ultimately futile) heroism of their illustrious leader cyber-marshal Danny “Luke” McPherson – the triumphant legions of Bot herders ravaged across all of cyberspace.
- By 2020 the Botherers’ vision of universal destruction ran out of targets, and in desperation they turned on each other.
- The era of **Botulism** began with a series of conflicts between rival Bot fathers. No end is in sight. Chris “Che” Morrow still leads a band of guerrillas that hide in a secret location called the *matrix* or *Zion*.

DRM

- The theory of **copyright numbers**[™] is developed from 2006 through 2011
- Number copyrighting legislation is introduced and clarified during the following decade
- Judge in Tennessee asks “What is an integer?”
- US Supreme Court rules that
10
10⁴²
is the smallest copyright number. Larger numbers than this are private property. We, the people, must make do with the smaller ones.

Video imaging

- Video image projection is phased out in 2008 in favour of plasma screens
- Plasma screens replaced by i-screens, with a processor chip behind every pixel
- PowerPoint (aided by other office software) continues to foul up almost all i-screen presentations, finding new failure modes every time

The mid-century bug scare

- 2015: the Gates Buffett Foundation releases uucp[®] (the universal unix, copy promoted operating system) free to all personkind
- 2022: the World Digital Trade Authority (chaired by Linus Torvalds) requires all computer interconnection interfaces to be uucp; capital letters declared illegal
- 2024: microsoft corporation enters chapter 11 (dancing in the streets around the globe)
- 2031: emeritus professor stroud recalls that unix time runs out at 3:14:07 utc on tuesday january 19, 2038
- 2032: huge growth in computer consultants' income; ghost town of silver spring rebuilt; stroud to be canonised
- 3:14:08 utc on tuesday jan 19, 2038: absolutely nothing goes wrong; Impeach Stroud is flashed to i-screens everywhere