

"CONSPIRACY THEORIES"

Written By
Peter John Ross

Sonnyboo productions
2663 Indianola Ave, STE 23
Columbus, OH 43202
(614)-261-6070
ross@sonnyboo.com

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INT. COMPUTER TECHNOLOGIES AREA - DAY

This is a group of five cubes in the back of the building where computers lay wide open, wires dangling and everything is a mess and the eccentric people who work here have their own order to the universe.

INSERT : "EPISODE 2 : CONSPIRACY THEORIES"

Sitting at his desk, MARK CATON, early 20's has a screwdriver in one hand and is tinkering with a motherboard as the phone rings.

MARK CATON
(hits the speaker phone)
Technologies, this is Mark.

DANIEL (V.O.)
(from speaker phone)
Hi Mark, this Daniel Lewis, and I'm having some trouble with my computer.

MARK CATON
Have you filled out the survey ?

DANIEL (V.O.)
What survey ?

MARK CATON
All new problems have to go through the forms before I can help you, so open up the envelope marked "Technologies Support", do you have that ?

DANIEL (V.O.)
Yes, it's here.
(tearing noises over the speaker phone)
Got it.

MARK CATON
Now let's go through this together.

DANIEL
"Question number one : describe the problem", okay my problem is that I turned the computer on and nothing happened.

MARK CATON
Question number two...

DANIEL
"Describe the problem accurately.", okay I turned the power on and nothing is still happening.

MARK CATON
Uh huh.

DANIEL

"Number three : Speculate wildly about the cause" , well that's funny because I was gonna say that I think it has something to do with how the word processor and our email work together.

MARK CATON

Yeah, that's likely. Let's keep moving on.

DANIEL

"Number four : Problem severity A. Minor, B. Minor, C. Minor, D. Trivial", well seeing that I can't see anything at all, I'd say it's severe.

MARK CATON

You must have done well on your S.A.T.'s with the multiple choice. I can see this is going to take some time, so let me help you get through the rest of this.

(puts the screw driver down
& picks up a piece of paper)

Have you tried to fix it yourself ?

DANIEL

Yes.

MARK CATON

Did you make it worse ?

DANIEL

No, it's the same.

MARK CATON

Have you had a friend who "knows all about computers" try to fix the computer for you ?

DANIEL

No.

MARK CATON

Have you read the manual ?

DANIEL

Yes.

MARK CATON

Are you absolutely certain you read the manual ?

DANIEL

Yes.

MARK CATON

If you read the manual, do you think you understood it ?

DANIEL

Yes.

MARK CATON

If "yes", then explain why you can;'t fix this yourself.

DANIEL

It didn't cover this particular error.

MARK CATON

Are you sure you aren't imagining the problem ?

DANIEL

Does it actually say that in the questionnaire ?

MARK CATON

It's question number twelve, sir. Does the clock on your VCR blink twelve O'clock ?

DANIEL

No.

MARK CATON

Do you have any independant witnesses to your computer problem ?

DANIEL

No.

MARK CATON

Is there anyone else you could blame the problem on ?

DANIEL

I guess not.

MARK CATON

Well, then let try a little cause and effect. You say there's no picture on your screen. Does the little light come on when you turn the power on the monitor ?

DANIEL

No.

MARK CATON

Have you looked under the computer to see if the moniter is plugged into the wall ?

DANIEL
 (long pause)
 Shit ! I'm an idiot.

MARK CATON
 Thank you for calling technologies.
 (hits the speakerphone
 button)
 Retard.

Enter JOHN PATTERSON, the youngest of the Tech crew, and also HUGH SIMON, a much older techie guy enter the cubicle area.

HUGH
 (to John)
 And that's why they do that when you
 put the dollar bill in your mouth and
 you lie on the table.
 (to Mark)
 Anything going on here ?

MARK CATON
 Just another user not knowing that you
 have to plug in a moniter to get it to
 turn on.

HUGH
 I think the average human should not be
 allowed to touch a computer.

JOHN
 Did you see the new Gateway and the
 IEEE 1394 ports are now a part of the
 package.

MARK CATON
 They suck.

HUGH
 I'm still using the four pin port and I
 think it's good.

JOHN
 Yeah, but the IE1394's are so much
 better.

HUGH
 Not that much better.

JOHN
 You're just stuck with your ancient
 1999 model computer which belongs in a
 museum next to the crossbow.

Enter EDWARD, from earlier.

EDWARD
 Hey fellahs.

HUGH

Mister Man. How's it going ?

EDWARD

Not bad, not bad. Did you know the server for all of the accounting department just went down ?

HUGH

God damn it ! I just checked on that.

Hugh and John both exit. Edward leans into Hugh's cube.

EDWARD

Is Elizabeth from the consulting firm going back today ?

HUGH

Yes. Her flight leaves at 10:30 A.M.

EDWARD

Dave and Rick are flying in at 10:36, do you mind picking them up ?

HUGH

No, not at all.

EDWARD

(whispering)

You know that one girl, the real hot one who always wears the three size too small skirts and four size too small sweaters ?

HUGH

That would be Miss Christy LaHood.

EDWARD

That's the one. Well, I forwarded you a little voice mail that was left for her. I think you'll like it.

Edward leaves. Hugh picks up his phone and presses in his ID number.

VOICE MAIL

... I know you met Roger at the National Training last year, so I thought you'd get a kick out of that. Anyway, I was just coming out of the meeting and I was thinking, God, I loved giving it to you from behind...

Hugh starts laughing.

INT. SERVER ROOM - DAY

John is handing a small screwdriver to Mark, who is halfway under a worktable, covered in wires and cables.

MARK CATON

..So I think it's perfectly obvious.

JOHN

You think Star Trek is communist propaganda ?

MARK CATON

Think about it. There's no money in the 24th century, everyone works for the government, and there's no religion. If that's not an exact representation of communism, I don't know what is. It's all very Marxist.

JOHN

(bored)

That's interesting.

Hugh enters.

HUGH

What was it ?

MARK CATON

God damn Microsoft.

HUGH

It was that last service pack, wasn't it ?

JOHN

Microsoft would not release a service pack that wasn't beta tested.

MARK CATON

(to John)

You do realize that Bill Gates expressly sends out versions of Windows with flaws so that we have to buy the upgrades.

JOHN

Oh, come on.

MARK CATON

It's true. It's the ultimate money making scheme.

HUGH

Release a product you know to be flawed, then force the public to pay more money to buy a working version.

MARK CATON

I read about it on a news group on the internet. They said there are disgruntled Microsoft employees who smuggled documents out about how Bill Gates bribes U.S. senators and that he has a back door bug, so that anyone on the internet can get hit by Microsoft's secret scanning program.

HUGH

Anyone surfing the web can have their whole computer scanned by Microsoft's programmers and if the bots find any unlicensed software, they'll delete your whole computer.

JOHN

Stop it you guys. That's total B.S. That's illegal.

HUGH

You know that legal junk you just click "yes" to every time you load a program ?

JOHN

Yeah ?

MARK CATON

When you clicked on "yes", you forego any and all rights. You should read that license agreement sometime. It's like a unbomber manifesto.

JOHN

Did it ever occur to you guys that maybe there are maybe fifteen to seventeen thousand programmers, all of which are human and make mistakes, working on the same complex operating system, don't you think it's *possible*, that a few mistakes would get by ?

MARK CATON

You are so naive.

JOHN

Arghhh !

HUGH

I need a volunteer.

MARK CATON

For what ?

HUGH

I need someone to drop off that consultant from Chicago at the airport and also pick up two execs from accounts receivable.

MARK CATON

Which consultant ?

HUGH

Elizabeth.

JOHN

I'll do it. I'll go.

HUGH

Okay, just make sure you're back after lunch. We have to reset the UNIX box.

JOHN

(as he hands the tools to
Hugh)

No problemo, chief.

John leaves.