

Relatively PC

by
David Goodall

Ninth Draft
22nd January, 2009

©David Goodall
93 New Trows Road
Lesmahagow ML11 0ER
01555 894 678
dg@soundsmove.com

1

INT. MAUREEN'S KITCHEN - MORNING

1

D1 - MAUREEN, TOMMY and LAURA are sitting round the kitchen table.

MAUREEN

So we're all set then?

LAURA

Yes. It's all organised: uncle Tommy will take Dad down to the shop, and they'll tailor a computer to suit what Dad wants.

Her phone rings.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Sorry.

She gets up and goes into the hall.

CUT TO:

2

INT. MAUREEN'S HALLWAY - MORNING

2

LAURA fiddles with her phone. It keeps ringing. She is rubbing her fingers all over it and poking it. Eventually the ringing stops.

LAURA

Hello? Hello?

CUT TO:

3

INT. MAUREEN'S KITCHEN - MORNING

3

LAURA comes back in. Staring accusingly at her phone.

LAURA

Gone. I'll have to go. I just can't get used to this phone.

MAUREEN

It looks very fancy. What does it do?

TOMMY

Everything apart from take calls.

MAUREEN

You can't use it? But there's you working with computers and things every day. It was you that set up your Dad's Satellite Navigator.

LAURA

I know - but it's a new way of working and I'm just not there yet. It doesn't matter how much you use this stuff, there's always something new.

TOMMY

Aye, it's always hard to cope with different ways of doing things.

LAURA

(Getting on her coat etc) Yes, it must have been a big change for you when they stopped the man with the red flag walking in front of the car.

CUT TO:

4 INT. MAUREEN'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

4

TOMMY and JACK are at the table. MAUREEN enters with a letter.

MAUREEN

For Goodness' sake! My bank's been bought over. I've got to use the Internet bank only now!

She hands over the letter.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

What am I going to do? I can't get money out if I don't have a bank to go into.

JACK

Surely you can still use an autobank?

MAUREEN

I go into the bank to transfer money. I've got my main account where my pension gets paid. That does all my bills too - the gas and the council tax and what have you. But then I've got my savings account and I've got my spending account.

TOMMY

I do *my* banking online.

MAUREEN

Oh that's far too complicated.

TOMMY

It is not. Sign in. A few mouse clicks and you're away.

MAUREEN

I had a look. But first there was remembering the name and the password - I thought that would be my PIN, but it's nothing like it.

TOMMY

I wrote mine down on a sticky note and stuck it to the screen.

JACK

Very good Tommy. And do you leave out sandwiches and lemonade for the burglars too?

MAUREEN

Well that's the other problem: Security - what happens with that padlock?

JACK

Your computer's got a padlock?

MAUREEN

Yes! No! Not the computer, but on the bank screen.

TOMMY

What about it?

MAUREEN

Well - how do you open it?

TOMMY

You don't. Well *I* don't. I don't think you're meant to.

MAUREEN

And what if someone else opens it?

TOMMY

I don't think *anyone* opens it. I think it's just there to...to show you a padlock.

JACK

Don't be daft. Why on earth would they have a padlock you can't use? To show how good their drawing is?

TOMMY

I'm just saying - I think it's just them *telling you* it's safe.

JACK

I just don't like all the nonsense these things bring. That's why I don't have a computer.

TOMMY

Yet.

JACK

Eh?

CUT TO:

5

INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

5

JACK

I just don't see why I need a computer.

LAURA

But Dad, a computer will make all sorts of things that much easier.

JACK

I don't need things *easier* - they're not difficult.

MAUREEN

But everything's going that way, Jack. You don't even go to the Post Office for your pension anymore.

TOMMY

And the local surgery doesn't let you phone for repeat prescriptions anymore either.

JACK

Well how do you get one then, if you can't get in yourself?

TOMMY

You've to do it online.

MAUREEN

Or with a text message.

JACK

That's ridiculous.

MAUREEN

You're telling me! Tom Robertson went without his heart pills because he got so flustered and panicked by it all. He's lucky he's still alive.

JACK

Well I don't have a heart condition and I don't want a computer. I mean, what if I got one, then I... I don't know - lost my.. Handwriting?

TOMMY

Lost your handwriting?

JACK

Och you know what I mean. Look at Bill Carrick - broke his leg. By the time he'd could use it again-

TOMMY

He'd lost his handwriting?

JACK

He couldn't drive.

MAUREEN

Eh? What are you on about?

TOMMY

Could he drive *before* he broke his leg?

JACK

He couldn't drive with his broken leg -

TOMMY

And I suppose he couldn't take the car and leave his leg at home.

JACK

He got his son to drive him around, or he got a taxi. Six months he was out of the driving seat. When he finally got back in it - he couldn't drive. He'd lost his confidence.

TOMMY

Scared of no being able to write? Bill Carrick couldn't drive? What a load of old rubbish.

(MORE)

TOMMY (CONT'D)

You're no scared of forgetting how to drive: you're scared of getting a computer; of no being able to use it. Or breaking it. Or looking stupid. Laura, give it to him.

LAURA produces a card

JACK

An appointment?

LAURA

This shop where we're getting your PC will make it so it just does what you want it to do. So it's not full of stuff you'll never use.

TOMMY

I'm coming with you - to help.

JACK

As if things weren't bad enough.

FADE TO:

6

INT. TOMMY'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

6

TOMMY comes in with a sandwich and a cup of tea. He sits at his computer.

TOMMY

Right - what's in the postbag today? (Reads) "Competitions Online" - gone. "Give us your opinions" - God, Jack's going to love those ones. Gone. What's this? (Reads silently) Nope - it's big enough, thank you. Gone. Bank Security? What's this? "Checking your security"... "upgrading the site"... "enter your details." Ha - and she thinks they're not safe. How safe is this. *Double-checking* my details! OK - go here.... Right. (He checks his Post-It note and types as he speaks) Username. Password. Pet - Mr. Bangles. "Login successful - you can now return to the main banking page. Thank you." You're welcome.

FADE OUT.

7 EXT. COMPUTER STORE - MORNING

7

D2 - TOMMY and JACK approach the store.

JACK

How does that work? You just click on it and that's you?

TOMMY

Aye. I'm telling you - there's loads of things you can do with a computer.

JACK

Well, maybe it won't be so bad.

TOMMY

Right - here we are. Are you ready?

JACK

Of course.

TOMMY goes to enter. JACK stops him.

JACK (CONT'D)

Am I going to sound stupid in here?

TOMMY

Not at all. Leave all that to me. (He pauses to take in what he's just said). Come on.

CUT TO:

8 INT. COMPUTER STORE - MORNING

8

The display area is very modern and full of different types of computers.

TOMMY

Here, this is great.

JACK

(Poking things) I can see myself getting into this.

FRANK enters.

FRANK

Mr. Munro?

TOMMY

Aye.

JACK
Aye. That's me.

FRANK
Frank Willoughby. You're here to choose your computer specifications? Follow me.

CUT TO:

9 INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - MORNING

9

FRANK enters, followed by JACK and TOMMY.

FRANK
In you come. Have a seat. Excuse the mess. (Sitting) Now I'm not going to give you any technical mumbo jumbo. You tell me what you want and I'll make sure your new computer does it. Hassle-free.

JACK
So you're not going to bamboozle us?

TOMMY
Or try to sell us stuff we don't need?

FRANK
Not at all. You talk - I'll listen.

JACK
Good.

TOMMY
Great.

FRANK
Right. (Pause) Shoot.

Silence

CUT TO:

10 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

10

MAUREEN and LAURA are at the computer.

MAUREEN
Right - here we go. How do I start?

LAURA

Just click on the Internet Banking button...Oh - where is it?

MAUREEN

It's a wee bit confusing - there's a load of stuff of "percentage" this and "shares" that.

LAURA

And those adverts rolling up and down don't help. There it is!

MAUREEN

Where? Oh right. Thank goodness you're here - it makes a big difference getting it started. I'd never have gotten this far on my own.

LAURA

Maybe your bank has someone to talk you through it?

MAUREEN

(Gives a look) User number. So is that my account number? Or this one I've written down?

LAURA

The one you've written down.

MAUREEN

Password... Sparky!

LAURA

Is Sparky not your pet?

MAUREEN

Yes, but is that not what I picked?

LAURA

No Auntie Maureen, that's one of your security questions.

MAUREEN

And is that not the same as a password?

LAURA

It's the same idea, but... Right - you click on this. They want you to tell them who you are and to prove it. So that's your user number and your password.

MAUREEN

So why's it not my account number?

LAURA

I thought you had three accounts with them?

MAUREEN

I do. Oh! So this will have all three in it?

LAURA

Yes.

MAUREEN

So I don't have to lodge in for each account?

LAURA

Log in. No - just the once. Now...

MAUREEN

That *is* handy.

LAURA

It is. Now - once you've put in your number and your password -

MAUREEN

Oh! It's just wee dots! My typewriter's not broken, is it?

LAURA

No, Auntie Maureen - that's just so people can't read your password.

MAUREEN

Including me!

LAURA

Now - they're asking for your pet's name. You answer that and you're in.

MAUREEN

They make it very difficult.

LAURA

Well it's your money. Would you rather it was easy?

CUT TO:

11 INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - MORNING

11

Pause

JACK

Well what do you think?

FRANK

Oh no. I'm not here to dictate to you. Just you tell me what you want and I'll see you get it.

JACK

But how can I tell you what I want if I don't know what it does?

FRANK

Well what sort of things do you like to do?

JACK

Drink tea. But that's something I'd rather keep doing myself.

TOMMY gives him a black look.

JACK (CONT'D)

Well how am I supposed to know? What do you use yours for?

TOMMY

Everything. They're great!

JACK

Everything. Thanks. Does it come with an Internet?

FRANK

Well, it comes Internet-ready...

JACK

Aye, but I'm not wanting it 'Internet ready' - I want it with an Internet already in it.

FRANK

It'll have an Internet. Anything else occur to you?

JACK

No yet.

Silence.

TOMMY

Skippy!

JACK
Eh?

TOMMY
Skippy.

JACK
(To Frank) Skippy.

FRANK
Skippy?

JACK looks at TOMMY, unsure.

TOMMY
Oh aye, Skippy.

FRANK
Would that be the chocolate bar,
or the crime-solving bush
kangaroo?

JACK
Eh? (To Tommy) Are you sure about
this?

TOMMY
Aye.

JACK
Well the computer expert seems to
be at a loss.

TOMMY
I'm telling you. Skippy. It's the
internet phone.

FRANK
Skype.

TOMMY
No, it's true.

CUT TO:

12 INT. CAFE - AFTERNOON

12

MAUREEN and LAURA are sitting with drinks. TOMMY and JACK
arrive.

MAUREEN
Here they are now. Well - how did
it go?

JACK
Aye - very good.

Laura's phone rings.

LAURA
I'd better get that.

She gets up and walks away. In the background, we see her repeat her earlier rigmarole.

TOMMY
The boy said if you've got a project - a goal - it's maybe easier to know what you want, and it'll be easier to learn stuff and all.

JACK
So I asked about putting all my figures into the machine. You know - bank accounts, savings and the like.

LAURA sits back down.

JACK (CONT'D)
Problems?

LAURA
No - I keep cutting folk off.

JACK
Your new phone? Still? I'll show you how to use after I've had my computer for a wee while! Anyway - the long and the short of it is I've got a project to work on: getting all my papers transferred into the thing. That gave him an idea of what I'll need to go in it, and it should arrive on Thursday.

LAURA
That's great Dad.

JACK
And - it's got an Internet.

LAURA
...That's great Dad.

Her phone rings. She stares at it, and puts it back in her bag in resignation.

LAURA (CONT'D)
I'd better go.

CUT TO:

13 INT. CAFE - AFTERNOON

13

They are still sitting at the table.

MAUREEN

Laura was a great help. I was so confused.

TOMMY

Aye well it helps to have someone teaching you. They have a class in here.

MAUREEN

You could go to that, Jack.

JACK

And have some spotty teenager make me feel stupid?

TOMMY

Not at all. The boy that teaches us is older than you!

JACK

Not necessary. I mean you and Maureen can do it - How hard can it be?

MAUREEN

Oh thanks.

JACK

I'm just saying that...

TOMMY

I tell you what - if it's going to be so easy, why not send me an email telling me about how you're getting on with it?

JACK

Easy.

TOMMY

Would you care to put a wee wager on it?

JACK

Maybe I will.

MAUREEN

Jack. (Lifts a a plastic bag)
Tommy - we saw this. We thought it would be useful.

TOMMY

Och, you shouldn't have.

TOMMY reaches into the bag. He reveals a giant remote control.

CUT TO:

14

EXT. CAFE - AFTERNOON

14

MAUREEN and JACK are following TOMMY.

MAUREEN

Nobody's saying you can't manage.

TOMMY

Look at it!

JACK

At least you won't lose it.

TOMMY

It's like something from Land of the Giants.

MAUREEN

You said you couldn't see the buttons on your remote without your reading glasses.

TOMMY

Aye - I'm using my reading glasses - no binoculars.

JACK

What is your problem with it? And by the way - you're welcome.

TOMMY

It makes me look daft.

MAUREEN

It does not.

JACK

You mean it makes you *feel* daft.

TOMMY

Aye well?

JACK

There's a difference.

TOMMY

Like what?

MAUREEN

You don't feel daft wearing your reading glasses.

TOMMY

Of course not.

JACK

But you did. Mind when you first had to wear them?

TOMMY

Aye - I'm getting old. Fine. It's just not the best day for showing me in such a....*big* way. I'm feeling stupid enough as it is.

JACK

What's up with you?

TOMMY

I'm just feeling.... I've been robbed.

CUT TO:

15

INT. MAUREEN'S KITCHEN - EVENING

15

TOMMY, MAUREEN and JACK are at the table with a cup of tea.

MAUREEN

And that's after you convinced me how safe the internet bank was?

JACK

I thought you'd been mugged.

TOMMY

Been mugged - no. Been a mug - yes.

JACK

So is that you lost all your money in your account?

TOMMY

No - my bank account has some kind of insurance to cover this stuff. Identity theft they called it.

MAUREEN

And was this when you were *in* the Internet bank?

TOMMY

No - that's safe like I told you. This was a fake letter from the bank. An email.

MAUREEN

And they got all your names and numbers from that?

TOMMY

No - I gave them all that stuff.

JACK

Well - you're insured - so at least you've not really lost anything.

TOMMY

Except my bloody self respect.

CUT TO:

16 INT. JACK'S HOUSE - MORNING 16

D3 - JACK is at his computer.

JACK

OK. Email to Tommy. Double-click that... What's it doing? Is that...? Oh, right. Now. What would it be? Tommy can do it. I want to make an email. 'Make' eh... 'Write' Ah! View. Of course - I can't make it without viewing it. Now remember the boy said you double-click things. So we double-click 'view'. Eh? Where's it all gone? Oh here we go....

He picks up the phone.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. BUS STOP - MORNING 17

LAURA is waiting at the bus stop. Her phone rings. She scrabbles at it.

LAURA

Yes! Hello?

She scrabbles some more, and fails again.

CUT TO:

18 INT. TOMMY'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING 18

TOMMY is on his phone.

TOMMY

Aye, well I phoned about it yesterday, and they said to download a...stolen person report. Aye - Identity Theft - aye - that's the one. Well I'm looking at it, but I can't open it. Well yes, I've got the stuff to open it, but it says it's too old. Just like everything else in this house. Well can you not send one that my computer can use? Or *post* one? Remember the Post, son? I see. And what if I don't want to update my programmes? What if I download a virus, eh? They're always on about that. Aye but, what if...(They have gone). Cheeky bugger. "Helpdesk" my arse.

CUT TO:

19 INT. JACK'S HOUSE - MORNING 19

JACK is searching through papers.

JACK

It's here somewhere. Aha! Right.

He picks up the phone and dials.

CUT TO:

20 INT. COMPUTER STORE - MORNING 20

FRANK answers his mobile

FRANK

Direct computing. Sorry? Mr. Munro? Right. How are you? Everything... Right I see. You want 'file'. Look up to the top left... No, on the computer screen. What's gone? OK - can you see the word 'view'? Click that - no, just the once. Yes - that's it. Right, *now* go to file. Yup - top left. Click it once. You see 'new...' That's the one.....

FADE OUT:

21 INT. TOMMY'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

21

TOMMY is at the computer.

TOMMY

Well it looks like I'm not going to get anything done *unless* I update all this stuff. Here we go - I can just download it. "Warning. Back up your data before...." Warning? Maybe we'll try it later. No - Tommy - if you don't do it and Jack finds out, you'll never hear the end of it. Right: "Set default location" Default? Is that a fault? What fault? Does their 'default' mean what it used to mean? Oh Christ - here goes....

He clicks.

CUT TO:

22 INT. JACK'S HOUSE - MORNING

22

JACK is typing in violent, ebullient fashion.

JACK

Done! Now - where do I... Now remember what the boy said - it's either a wee picture (peers) 'wee' is the word alright. Or it's in the 'file' bit. Picture, picture, picture. There's nothing there looks like anything. I'll try 'file'. (Scans). Ha! There we go.

He clicks triumphantly.

CUT TO:

23 INT. TOMMY'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

23

TOMMY is staring at the screen in frustration.

TOMMY

No! Don't go there. What on earth?

The phone rings.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Hello? Jack! I was going to phone you.

JACK

Well tell me in a minute. I have news. I've done you an email!

TOMMY

Oh well done. I haven't checked my email yet. I've been too busy - Och I'll tell you later.

JACK

Right. Here's the problem - I remember the boy saying not to just switch off the computer - but how do I do it then? There was so much to take in - I had a hell of a time just getting the email done.

TOMMY

Och that's easy. Do you see the wee grey bar at the bottom of the screen?

JACK

Aye.

TOMMY

Well, just at the corner, there's a wee sign.

JACK

Beside the 'start' sign?

TOMMY

Aye - the start sign.

JACK

I've not got one.

TOMMY

A start sign?

JACK

No - a button beside the start sign.

TOMMY

No - not *beside* the start sign. It *is* the start sign.

JACK

I've got the machine on! It's the stop button I need.

TOMMY

Aye I know - that's where it is - click the start sign.

JACK
To switch it off?

TOMMY
Aye. Listen: what are you up to tomorrow?

JACK
Nothing. Why? Do you need help carrying your giant remote control?

TOMMY
Very funny. I was going to pop round and see how you're getting on with the computer. Maybe get a wee cuppa.

JACK
Aye - come round about half nine. Give me time to get things done.

TOMMY
Do you have any scones?

JACK
No.

TOMMY
Well get some for tomorrow, will you?

CUT TO:

24 INT. JACK'S HOUSE - MORNING

24

D4 - JACK and TOMMY are at the computer table, having their tea and scones.

JACK
So why's it doing that? Are you doing the right thing?

TOMMY
Och it's the new version I downloaded. It learns what you want to do - it says. What it means is that if you do something a couple of times, then you're stuck with it.

JACK
Well maybe you're doing it wrong. I could give you a hand.

TOMMY
(Gives him a look) I never got
your email.

JACK
Well I definitely sent it.

TOMMY
Well I've not had it.

JACK
Well I sent it.

TOMMY
I'm just saying I've not had it.

JACK
Well I sent it.

Pause

TOMMY
Maybe you did it wrong.

Pause

JACK
Maybe you should check with your
giant remote control.

CUT TO:

25 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

25

MAUREEN is online.

MAUREEN
Password.... Accept. There.
That's easy. Now. Shop... Shop...
What will it be called? Ah!
Groceries. OK. Provisions. This
is all quite clear, I should have
done this ages ago. What's that?
Oh no - really? I didn't know
they'd sell that. I've not seen
that in years. Right - click
it...add to basket. Eh? Add to
basket. Oh come on - (clicks a
few times). I'm adding it.
(Clicks) What happens next?
Where's my basket?

Clicks again.

CUT TO:

JACK

Right - I'll try this myself. So we quit this.

TOMMY

What are you doing? You've no saved it.

JACK

I press "Quit" and it asks me to save it.

TOMMY

Aye, but that's no the way to do it.

JACK

Why not? You need to save it - and I've saved it.

TOMMY

But it's not what the man at the class says to do.

JACK

Well maybe I'm a bit ahead of your boy at the class.

Phone rings.

JACK (CONT'D)

Hello? Oh hello Maureen, we're just... Uh-hu. Well maybe I could... I'll pass you over.

TOMMY

(Taking the phone) Maureen?

MAUREEN

Oh Tommy, I'm in the house shopping, and I've picked what to buy. But I've left my trolley back at the tinned meat section.

TOMMY

Eh?

MAUREEN

Well I picked some cold meat, and I tried to add it to my basket, but nothing happened. I've been clicking away till my hands are stiff. It seemed so easy at first.

TOMMY

You're doing fine. Did you set up your quick checkout thing?

MAUREEN

Yes.

TOMMY

And you've done your basket clicks?

MAUREEN

Yes, that's what I'm telling you.

TOMMY

Well that's you then. Just find the 'Quick Checkout' button and click that.

MAUREEN

Hold on - there it is. Oh! It's got my bill. How did it know?

TOMMY

So that's you then?

MAUREEN

Yes, thanks Tommy.

TOMMY

Right you are then. See you tomorrow.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. MAUREEN'S HOUSE - MORNING

27

D5 - MAUREEN is arguing with a DELIVERY MAN

DELIVERY MAN

Look love, I'm just telling you what's on my list.

MAUREEN

Well what on earth would anyone want all these tins of cold meat?

DELIVERY MAN

I don't know. You might be hoarding in case there's a riot or an invasion. Are you having a nostalgic rationing party? Remembering the war?

MAUREEN

Did you at least not think it was strange?

DELIVERY MAN

I certainly did. But if I refused to deliver everything that I thought was strange, I'd... well I certainly wouldn't be coming here that much. Look, I do have other customers with a more balanced diet who are expecting a delivery.

MAUREEN

(Gesturing for the form). Oh give it here then.

DELIVERY MAN

Much obliged. Enjoy your... Your tins. Next time order some lemons too. Help you avoid scurvy.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. MAUREEN'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

28

D6 - TOMMY and JACK are at the door. They ring the bell. MAUREEN answers.

MAUREEN

Hello. In you come.

TOMMY

Look at this.

MAUREEN

What is it? A letter?

CUT TO:

29 INT. MAUREEN'S HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

29

They stop in the hallway to take off coats.

TOMMY

Well now - what is it? Why don't you tell her, Jack?

JACK

It's my email.

MAUREEN

Your what?

JACK

The email I sent Tommy.

MAUREEN

I'll get the kettle on.

TOMMY
Has your Internet shopping
arrived?

MAUREEN
It has, but I've ended up with a
massive pile of spam.

She heads off into the kitchen, with JACK.

TOMMY
Just delete it.

CUT TO:

30 INT. MAUREEN'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

30

JACK
That might be harder than it
sounds.

The table is covered in tins of Spam.

FADE TO BLACK.