

# THE EXPLODING TURKEY

A dangerous holiday tradition involving deep-frying a frozen turkey, often leading to massive oil explosions and fireballs two stories high, as depicted in fire department safety videos



Prevention Prompt: "Menu for safe holiday pizza delivery that does not require fire suppression equipment."

# THE HARD STRIKE

I told a remote user to "hit Enter" to continue a process. They physically punched the monitor screen, cracking it. "Well, you said hit it!" he defended.



Prevention Prompt: "Train helpdesk staff to avoid colloquialisms, using precise phrases like "press the Enter key" instead of "hit Enter."

# What do you get if you cross a snowman and a dog?



A Frost-bite.

# THE SALTY SURPRISE

Aunt Brenda insisted on making her famous homemade pumpkin pies from scratch for Thanksgiving this year. In the chaotic pre-dinner rush, and refusing to wear her reading glasses, she mistook the large Costco container of coarse kosher salt for granulated sugar. The mistake wasn't discovered until the entire extended family simultaneously took their first bite of dessert. The collective gagging noise at the table was louder than the football game on TV.



Prevention Prompt: "Implement mandatory "Mise en place" protocols in the family kitchen, requiring all ingredients to be clearly labeled in large font and taste-tested by an independent auditor (a different relative) before baking commences."

# THE PARKING LOT HAM INCIDENT

An aunt got into an argument with her sister (the narrator's mom) at the grocery store and hit her in the head with a Christmas ham



Prevention Prompt: "Meditation guide: How to take a deep breath instead of turning deli products into blunt instruments."

What's an elf's favorite musical genre?



Wrap music.

# SECURITY THEATER

Security mandated complex, unmemorable passwords. A user wrote their new 25-character password on a bright yellow sticky note and pasted it directly over their laptop webcam lens.



Prevention Prompt: "Implement a company-wide password manager solution rather than forcing users to memorize impossible strings of characters."

# THE INDOOR BLIZZARD

The adults were enjoying a rare moment of peace in the living room after Hanukkah dinner, remarking on how well the four young cousins were playing together in the basement. The silence should have been a warning. Dad went downstairs to check on them and discovered they had found a rip in a giant bean-bag chair. They had spent the last hour emptying millions of tiny, static-charged Styrofoam balls to create "indoor snow" that was now six inches deep across the entire basement floor.



Prevention Prompt: "Never trust silence when children outnumber adults during a holiday gathering. Check on them every 15 minutes, and ban all furniture filled with thousands of tiny, destructible particles."

Why did the reindeer take up boxing?



He wanted to be a heavy sleigh-weight.

# THE "ANY" KEY

A ticket came in: "Keyboard broken. Cannot follow instructions." I went to the desk. The user was frantically searching their keyboard. "Where is the 'Any' key I need to press?"



Modify system prompts to be specific, such as changing "Press any key to continue" to "Press the Spacebar to continue."

# MY MOTHER-IN-LAW'S BANANA

A family of 7, dressed in coats and boots ready for church, is forced to wait by the open door while the mother-in-law sits down to slowly peel and eat a banana



Prevention Prompt: "List of portable snacks that can be eaten while walking to the car."

#### Why is December such a cool month?



Because it has Brrrr in the name.

# **GRANDPA'S HOT MIC**

A snowstorm kept Grandpa home, so he joined Christmas Eve dinner on an iPad. He spent twenty minutes thinking his mic was broken and loudly narrating his thoughts for all to hear—including comments about Martha's hair and last year's burnt roast.



Prevention Prompt: "Before any virtual family gathering, appoint a "Tech Liaison" whose sole job is to remotely manage the mute status of relatives over the age of 75."

# THE FAKE FIREPLACE AND THE DEFLATED STONE

Parents remodeled the fireplace with fake river rocks, but one was "deflated" and looked like a dented grey rock hanging over the family in holiday photos



Prevention Prompt: "Catalog of real stones that do not require inflation."

What do you call Santa Claus when he takes a break?



Santa Pause

# THE REGIFTING CIRCLE OF LIFE

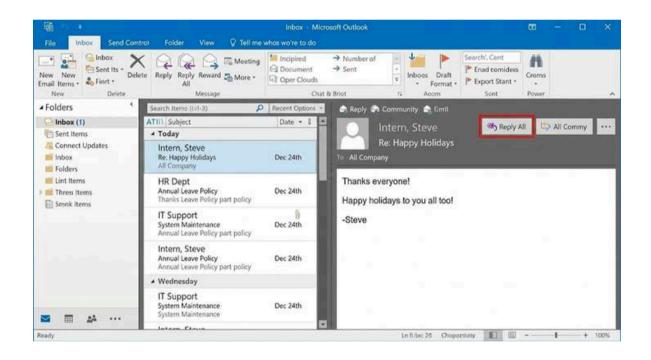
During the annual White Elephant gift exchange, cousin Sarah stole a nicely wrapped, heavy box from her brother. She excitedly tore open the paper to reveal a very specific, battery-operated singing bass fish plaque. Sarah stared at it in silence for a moment before announcing to the room, "I bought this for Uncle Jerry in 2018. Jerry gave it to Dad in 2020. Dad wrapped it today. The fish has come home.



Prevention Prompt: "Maintain a strict, encrypted spreadsheet detailing every novelty gift purchased, received, and stored in the "gift closet" for the past ten years to track inventory and prevent embarrassing recirculation."

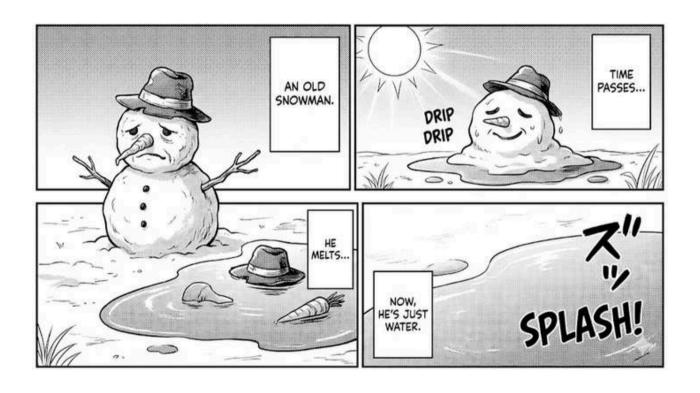
# THE BOLD REPLY-ALL

The CEO sent a company-wide "Happy Holidays" email to 5,000 staff. An intern immediately hit "Reply All" to ask, "Does this mean we get a cash bonus this year?"



Prevention Prompt: "Configure the company email server to restrict or disable the "Reply All" function on massive distribution lists."

#### What do you call an old snowman?



Water.

# THE TAIL AMPUTATION THREAT

A mother-in-law arrived and started barking orders, until the son-in-law told her he was taking the dog to the vet to amputate its tail so nothing in the house would wag to make her feel welcome



Prevention Prompt: "Recommended hotels in the area for the mother-in-law's stay (breakfast included)."

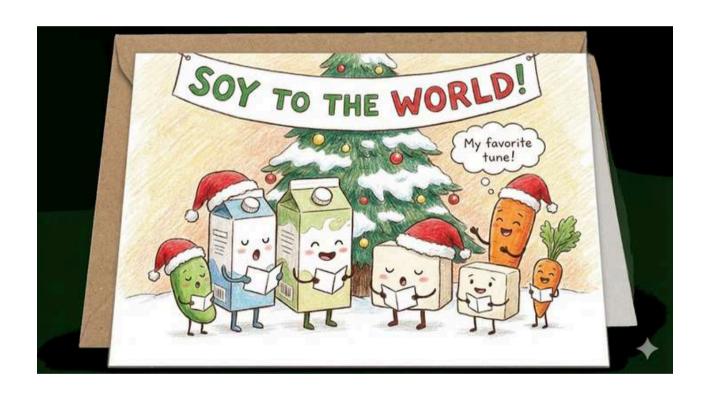
#### THE DEAD MOUSE IN THE GIFT BAG

A grandmother who hoards gifts in the basement all year gave her granddaughter a large gift bag, and at the bottom was a dead mouse



Prevention Prompt: "Digital gift card: The only gift that cannot rot."

# What is a vegan's favorite Christmas song?



Soy to the World!

#### THE TOFURKY INCIDENT

My sister's new boyfriend, a strict vegan, was attending his first Christmas dinner with our very carnivorous family. My dad, trying to be welcoming, insisted on grilling the "Tofurky" (tofu turkey) the boyfriend brought. Dad treated it exactly like a real steak: high heat, open flame charring. The result was a blackened, hockey-puck-hard disc that smoked up the entire patio. The boyfriend politely tried to saw through it with a steak knife for ten minutes before giving up and just eating mashed potatoes.



Prevention Prompt: "Keep traditional dads away from alternative proteins. Designate a separate, smaller cooking appliance for dietary restrictions and allow the owner of the specialty food to prepare it themselves."

# CAT POOP PIZZA

A mother's boyfriend gave a child a pizza box as a gift, but inside were cat feces and dirty litter



Prevention Prompt: "List of gifts that won't cause Child Protective Services to visit."

How do you know Santa is real?



You can always sense his presents.

# THE TRANSPARENT SCREEN SHARE

During a pitch to a Fortune 500 executive, the rep shared his screen. He forgot to close the browser tab labeled: "How to fake quarterly sales numbers.



Prevention Prompt: "Mandate the use of "Window Sharing" instead of "Desktop Sharing" during presentations, and enforce a clean-browser policy for client meetings."

# THE WIRELESS LOGIC

A user complained their wireless mouse wasn't working. I arrived to find they had taped the tiny USB receiver unit to the actual mouse "so it wouldn't get lost"



Create simple, pictorial guides for connecting peripherals and include them in new employee onboarding packages.

What did Luke Skywalker say after he planted a Christmas tree farm?



May the forest be with you!

# THE CARDBOARD CAKE

To teach a greedy relative a lesson about eating all the desserts, the family made a fake coconut cake out of cardboard covered in frosting



Prevention Prompt: "Baking for Beginners: How to use flour instead of packaging materials."

# THE FLYING TURKEY AND THE BROKEN MIRROR

A drunken mother got angry at the grandfather, threw the roasting pan with the turkey at him, missed, and shattered a giant wall mirror



Prevention Prompt: "Catering service that provides only soft plastic utensils."

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The stories in this book were hallucinated by a complex neural network and wrangled into submission by a human with a keyboard. While the AI did the heavy lifting, a human supervisor was present at all times to prevent the robot from taking over the world—or at least to make sure the jokes landed. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or rebooting, is purely coincidental (or a result of algorithmic probability).