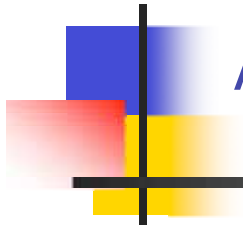


IFIP WG10.4

Highlights From

The Last 25 Years

A Cautionary Tale



Chuck Weinstock

June 30, 2031



circa 2006



- Laprie, Schlichting, and others speak at DSN 2006
- The era of global collaboration begins
- Much progress towards solving the worlds dependability problems ensues



2007/2008



- Europe, Japan, US funding agencies jointly announce well-funded grant programs for dependability research
- More progress ensues
- International love-fests at highly successful DSN 2007 and DSN 2008

But in October 2008 . . .



- After a successful Al Qaeda attack on the US power system infrastructure the Bush Administration
 - Postpones the November elections
 - Closes the US borders
 - Begins unannounced telecommunications censorship program



circa 2009

- “Free” elections are eventually held
- Isolationism takes hold in the US
- Politicians are able to deflect public anger from themselves to the scientists “for getting us into this situation.”
- Funding for science in general, and particularly international collaboration and travel is severely cut
- Paulo is disappointed with US attendance at DSN 2009 in Lisboa ☹.



circa 2016



- The Bush dynasty continues with the election of the youngest President ever. 35 year old Jenna Bush (right)
- She runs on a campaign “what was right for my father is right for me”
- Vice President Dick Cheney is widely reputed to (still) be the “power behind the throne.”
 - No term limits on VP
 - Prior dependability research has kept his heart beating reliably between Bush administrations



circa 2021

- Jenna re-elected running on an anti-science platform.
- Cheney, now 80, brings together leaders of the defense industry in secret session to discuss scientific research in the US
- What exactly transpires in this meeting is not known despite subsequent lawsuits and Congressional inquiry. What is known is that the administration becomes (more) actively hostile towards science.



circa 2022

- In State of the Union Address Jenna declares a new “Faith-based Dependability Initiative”
- Religious leaders applaud.
- Shortly, planes (e.g.) begin to fall out of the sky. (Religious leaders duck.)
- Most of those dependability researchers still in the US make plans to immigrate to centers of “reality-based” dependability (pretty much the rest of the world.)



In the mean time

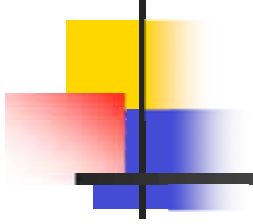


- Rest-of-the-world collaboration in dependability makes great strides
- Planes (e.g.) do not fall out of the air
- They welcome their former US colleagues with open arms



Dependability Snapshot

- Faith-based science in the US invents teleportation
- BeliefSan™ models are used to validate the design.
- Faith-based engineering implements it.
- Faith-based dependability researchers certify it to be reliable.
- Inevitably someone loses faith and an accident happens. Unfortunately it falls close to home.
- No reality-based researchers, engineers, etc. are around to fix things





circa 2025

- The anti-science crowd is driven out of office (Executive and Congress)
- Science funding is significantly increased
- Border restrictions are relaxed
- Researchers begin to come home to help the US down the long road to catch up with the rest of the world



Summer 2031

- IFIP WG10.4 holds its 100th meeting in Annapolis, MD to commemorate its 50th meeting.
- A major topic on the agenda:
Dependable Computing in 2081
- With the current state of dependability, medicine, etc., none of us will care what things are like in 2081



In a Parallel Universe



Alternative Reality

- Global cooperation leads to great strides in solving the world's dependability issues.
- In spite of this, contractors:
 - Continue to be selected on the basis of low bids.
 - Have no incentive to give up their lucrative maintenance work.
 - So they continue to treat dependability as an afterthought...with predictable results. (Sorry Jay)
- (Sorry, I'm feeling cynical this year.)