

ELVIN

THE COMPUTER BUG WHO SAVED THE INTERNET

A Screenplay With Songs

By Tom Attea

**Contact:
Tom Attea
Phone: 917.647.4321
Email: tattea@gmail.com
© 2000 Tom Attea**

FADE IN:

INT. - GENERAL MEMKO'S COMMAND CENTER

GENERAL MEMKO, a comically crazed, renegade Russian general, stands behind his right-hand lackey, named, curiously enough, LIEUTENANT LACKO. Before them is a vast array of technology that is as high tech as a resourceful imbecile, who is a refugee from the former Soviet Union, can manage. Among the more clarion indications of his marginal situation are the occasional malfunction, such as a digital readout malfunctioning, a lever breaking off, and a not insignificant amount of exceedingly troublesome dust.

GENERAL MEMKO

How is the development of SurgeMaker
1.8 going?

LIEUTENANT LACKO

We have run into unexpected complication,
General Memko. So tomorrow we begin work
On SurgeMaker 1.9.

GENERAL MEMKO

I need surge program now! The sooner we
Send big electrical spike through Internet
and bring it down forever, the sooner new,
improved Soviet Union will rise from dust!
(crazed laugh)

LIEUTENANT LACKO notices that a digital voltmeter is spinning wildly. HE smacks it with the back of his hand and, surprisingly enough, it begins to function in a credible manner.

CUT TO:

INT. - CLOSE SHOT - BIRTHDAY PRESENT BEING OPENED

JEFFREY eagerly opens a birthday present, revealing a video game, called Galactic Combat 4. CAMERA pulls back to pick up Jeffrey as he eyes the game and sags his shoulders.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT - WRIGHT LIVING ROOM

JEFFREY'S father, ED, glances at his wife, PAT, and then addresses JEFFREY. His sister, ALYSON, looks on.

ED

It's the video game you wanted,
right?

JEFFREY

Yeah. Thanks.

PAT

What's wrong, Jeffrey?

JEFFREY

We need a new computer.

ALYSON

I agree.

JEFFREY

Thanks, Alyson.

ED

What's wrong with the one we have?

JEFFREY

(holds up game)

No way is it powerful enough to run
this.

ALYSON

It's a dinosaur.

ED

It's good enough for me.

JEFFREY

That's because all you do is bank stuff.
Games gobble up way more power.

PAT

Maybe we should get a new one, Ed. Sometimes,
when I send an email it takes forever.

ALYSON

You should try to do homework on it.

ED

The computer is fine.

JEFFREY

(holds up video game)

Wanna bet?

CUT TO:

DEN - CLOSE SHOT - DESKTOP COMPUTER

The computer beeps. A message appears on the screen:
"INSUFFICIENT MEMORY."

CUT TO:

JEFFREY - AT COMPUTER

JEFFREY

See. I told you.
(points to screen)
"Insufficient memory."

CAMERA pulls back to two-shot of JEFFREY and ED.

ED

Just remove one of your old games.
Then it'll work fine.

JEFFREY

Sure, dad. Come on, it's time to
chuck this antique. With a new computer,
you'll be able to do your online
banking a lot faster.

CUT TO:

INT. - COMPUTER STORE - DAY

ED and JEFFREY are shopping for a computer. JEFFREY has found the one he loves.

JEFFREY

This one is awesome, Dad. A 3.4-gig processor, a 120-gig hard drive. One gig of RAM, upgradeable to two. It's a real gaming machine.

ED

It should be, for that price.
(indicates cheaper model)
How about this one? Great price.

JEFFREY

(looks)
It's already obsolete.
(points to new one)
Go for this one, Dad, and you won't have to buy another computer for at least five years.

CUT TO:

EXT. - COMPUTER STORE - DAY

JEFFREY and ED, leaving with a large computer box.

ED

All I can say is, it better be fantastic!

JEFFREY

You're gonna love it, Dad. Trust me.

CUT TO:

INT. - WRIGHT DEN - DAY

ED is at the new computer, doing his banking. He clicks on "TRANSFER FUNDS." Suddenly, we see money start to float across the screen and into the Trash basket.

ED
(shocked)
No, no, stop! That's my money!

He jumps up and hurries to the door.

ED (CONT'D)
(calls)
Jeffrey! Come here, quick! Quick!
This computer is sending my money
to the Trash.

ED hurries back to the computer and tries to interrupt the process.

CUT TO:

ED'S POV - JEFFREY ENTERS DEN

JEFFREY
What's up, dad?

ED
This fancy new computer!
(points to screen)
Stop it! Look! I'm almost broke!

JEFFREY
(sees the flying money)
Cripes! You're right.
(sits down; manipulates mouse)
It won't stop.

ED
I'll show you how to stop it.
(unplugs computer; it crashes)

JEFFREY
You shouldn't do that, Dad. You could
really mess it up.

ED

Mess it up? I'll destroy it!

JEFFREY

You must have done something very wrong.
Plug it back in.

ED

No way. I'm calling the bank.
(on phone; hitting menu-prompted
buttons)

I did transfers all the time on the
old computer. No problem. But this
one - I'm returning it.

(to bank rep)

"Hello. You gotta help me. My money is
flying out of my account!

DISS TO:

CLOSE SHOT - JEFFREY AT COMPUTER

JEFFREY is playing the video game he received as a present,
destroying enemy spaceships and zapping aliens with deft
accuracy. We see his score mounting.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM SHOT - ALYSON ENTERS

SHE has a notebook and a book.

ALYSON

You've been on the new computer
long enough.

(holds up notebook)

I have to do my homework.

JEFFREY

(points to old computer)

Do it on the old one.

ALYSON

I hate that old thing.

JEFFREY

It still good for things like homework.

ALYSON

Please, Jeffrey. Or I'll tell Mom and Dad.

JEFFREY

Just let me finish one more battle.

ALYSON

That's what you said five minutes ago.

JEFFREY

(executes another attack)

Die, Zork. Die!

(big explosion, flashes)

Wow!

(turns to her)

This is such a cool game. Look at my level!

Just then the screen goes blank and the hard drive winds down.

CUT TO:

JEFFREY'S POV - AS COMPUTER CRASHES

JEFFREY

Not now!

ALYSON

I can't believe it.

(giggles)

The new computer crashed.

JEFFREY

What's with this thing?

(begins to examine it)

ALYSON runs out the door.

CUT TO:

INT. - LIVING ROOM

ALYSON rushes in. Wide shot: reveal ED and PAT.

ALYSON
Guess what? Jeffrey's hot new
computer just crashed.

CUT TO:

DEN - CLOSE SHOT - ED, EYEING COMPUTER

ED
I told you it was garbage. Now,
it's history.

CUT TO:

TWO SHOT - ED AND JEFFREY

JEFFREY
OK, Dad. As long as we can trade it
for a new one.

ED
We're all going back to the old one.
It never crashed once in five years.

JEFFREY
You're right. It's even too slow
to do that.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT - ALYSON

ALYSON
What about my homework?

ED
(points to old computer)
Do it on that one!

ALYSON

But I don't want to do it on
that old thing.

ED

If it's good enough for me, it's
good enough for you.

JEFFREY

(to ALYSON)

Don't worry, Alyson. I'll get
this one working again. I'll run
a virus scan.

ED

You think it has a virus?

JEFFREY

I'll let you know, dad.

DISS TO:

TWO SHOT - ED AND ALYSON

ALYSON

Find any viruses yet, Jeffrey?

JEFFREY

Not yet. It'll figure it out.

DISS TO:

JEFFREY AT COMPUTER

Frustrated, HE hits the computer.

JEFFREY

What is wrong with this thing?

A small chuckle rises eerily from the computer.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)
(surprised)
Hey, that's weird.
(grabs computer and
starts to shake it)
Come on! What's going on?

ELVIN
(still invisible)
Hey, take it easy, will ya?

JEFFREY sits back, shocked.

JEFFREY
(looks over computer)
I must be losing it. Talk to me.

ELVIN
Sure, sure. Stop knocking me around,
and I'll cut you some slack.

JEFFREY
Just work right, OK?

The computer boots up.

JEFFREY
Ah, man, this is too much!

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT - ALYSON

ALYSON
(with her book and notes)
Got it working yet?

JEFFREY
Yeah. This thing even talks.

ALYSON
Sure, it does, Jeffrey. Now, can
I do my homework.

JEFFREY gives computer one last very puzzled look and gets up.

ALYSON sits down to do her homework.

DISS TO:

INT. - JEFFREY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

JEFFREY is lying in bed, unable to sleep. HE gets up and goes out the door.

CUT TO:

ENTRANCE TO DEN

JEFFREY enters the den and goes to the computer. He looks it over, sits down and turns it on.

CUT TO:

JEFFREY - AT THE COMPUTER

JEFFREY

OK. Talk to me!

He smacks it again.

ELVIN

(off)

Ouch!

JEFFREY

Hey, wow, again? Who's in there?
Tell me - or it's back to the store!

ELVIN

(off)

Ooh, you don't want to do that.

JEFFREY

(moves mouse)

So you say. Come out or I'll
power it down forever.

ELVIN

No, no, not that!

ELVIN, a green elf-like creature, but in high-tech clothes, peeks in from the edge of the screen.

ELVIN

Hi, there!

JEFFREY

(double-take)

Wow, hey! Who are you?

ELVIN

I'm Elvin, the computer bug.

JEFFREY

Elvin, the computer bug?

ELVIN

None other. I live in your hard drive.

JEFFREY

This is too, too much. How come my virus scan didn't spot you?

ELVIN

Please. I'm not a mere virus? I'm a full-fledged manufacturing defect!

JEFFREY

No wonder this thing sucks.

ELVIN

Of course, it does. With me on the job, what else would you expect?

JEFFREY

I need a reality check. I'm sitting here, talking with a computer bug.

ELVIN

Not only that. Wait till you hear me sing.

JEFFREY

If I tell anyone about this, they'll
lock me up.

ELVIN

Oh, come, on. Here's the real deal.

MUSIC: "ELVIN, THE COMPUTER BUG."

ELVIN (CONT'D)

(sings and dances)

I'M ELVIN, THE COMPUTER BUG!
ELVIN, THE COMPUTER BUG!
A MODERN SORT OF ELF
YOU'VE GOT ALL TO YOURSELF.

I'M ELVIN, THE COMPUTER BUG!
ELVIN, THE COMPUTER BUG!
I'M CUTE ENOUGH TO HUG
AND BAD ENOUGH TO SLUG.

I CAN BUG YOUR SOFTWARE
AND GIVE YOU QUITE A SCARE.
I CAN BUG YOUR HARDWARE
TILL IT'S BEYOND REPAIR.

HA! HA! — YOU CLICK,
I PLAY A TRICK!
YOU DO ERASE,
AND I DO REPLACE.
YOU DO REPEAT,
AND I DO DELETE.
AND WHEN YOU EXCLAIM,
"THAT COMPUTER'S OUT OF HERE!"
I MIGHT DISAPPEAR,
SO ALL GOES WELL,
AT LEAST, FOR A SPELL.
OR I MIGHT APPEAR
AND TELL YOU MY NAME,
AND EVEN PRETEND
TO BE YOUR FRIEND —
AT LEAST FOR AS LONG
AS I SING THIS SONG!
(laughs)

ELVIN (CONT'D)
I'M ELVIN, THE COMPUTER BUG!
ELVIN, THE COMPUTER BUG!
I'M CUTE ENOUGH TO HUG
AND BAD ENOUGH TO SLUG.

JEFFREY
My dad was right. You're going
Back to the store.

ELVIN
Oh, come on, Jeffrey. You don't
want to do that.

JEFFREY
Give me one good reason.

ELVIN
The computer techies would attack. I
could be eliminated.
(eyes brighten)
You wouldn't want that to happen, would
you?
(laments his possible fate)
Oh, good-bye, computer! Hello, junk heap!

JEFFREY
It's what you deserve, messing up a
great computer like this.

ELVIN
But I can be your friend.

JEFFREY
Oh, sure. And with friends like you,
who needs -

ELVIN
- No, no, I mean it. One day I might
even bring my other friends to visit you.

JEFFREY
That's all I need.

ELVIN

Oh, you'd love 'em. They're so bad.

JEFFREY

Thanks, but I'll pass.

ELVIN

OK, tell you what. I'll show you how to get around the Internet better than any human being in history.

JEFFREY

You will?

ELVIN

Sure. It's my home turf. We'll travel the world together - zapping computers as we go.

JEFFREY

(gets an idea)

Hold it, Elvin. Can you really get into another computer?

ELVIN

Sure, just open your browser and I'm off. Why do you ask?

JEFFREY

You may have saved your life. Look, there's this guy in my class, Albert.

ELVIN

Yes?

JEFFREY

He's a bully. Not to mention an idiot. Worst of all, he likes the same girl I do.

ELVIN

Ah, ha. And how may I be of service?

JEFFREY

Well, he's always sending her sappy emails, telling her how great he is compared to me and how much he loves her. So I'm wondering if -

ELVIN

- Say no more! Sounds like a job for one of my talented virus friends.

JEFFREY

You can get one to mess up his email?

ELVIN

I could manage it myself. But they're the best in the whole Web world.

JEFFREY

Cool. But why don't you do it? Then you can go live in his computer for good.

ELVIN

(hands over ears; in pain)
Ooh, never say that word.

JEFFREY

What word?

ELVIN

I can't tell you, because I'd have to say it. But it begins with the letter "g."

JEFFREY

Go?

ELVIN

That, too. But much worse.

JEFFREY

Good?

ELVIN

(more pain)

That's it. Stop. In my world,
it's the worst possible word anyone
can utter.

JEFFREY

It is?

ELVIN

Sure. It goes against everything we
stand for. On the other hand, just
mention doing something bad, and we're
all ears. So tell you what. I'll make
you a deal.

JEFFREY

What deal?

ELVIN

You promise to keep the computer, yours
truly included, and one of my friends
or I myself will have some amazing fun
with Albert's email.

JEFFREY

OK, Elvin. Deal. But you better behave
while you're in this computer, because if
you act up too much, my dad will take it
back, no matter what I say.

ELVIN

I will do everything I can to control my
natural inclinations. Now, let me get my
helmet.

JEFFREY

Why do you need a helmet?

ELVIN

Are you kidding? At the speed I travel
the Internet, it's the law.

CUT TO:

ECU - COMPUTER SCREEN - JEFFREY'S POV

ELVIN
(with helmet on)
All right, Jeffrey. Launch Internet Explorer. And I'll be on my way.

JEFFREY clicks on the mouse.

ELVIN
See you in a flash!

ELVIN vanishes into the depths of the screen.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT - JEFFREY

JEFFREY
(rubs hands together)
Oh, man, what luck!

DISS TO:

ELVIN - ON THE INTERNET

We see ELVIN zipping along the Internet like an elfin Superman. He swooshes to a stop at THE CYBERLAND BAR & GRILLE, which looks like an old-time western saloon, and walks through the swinging door, removing his helmet.

CUT TO:

INT. THE CYBERLAND BAR & GRILLE - ELVIN'S POV

Some computer bugs are standing at the bar; among them are and GLITCH, a quirky personality, FREEZE, who tends to stop all motion unpredictably, and CRASH, a husky athletic bug. KING WORM, a lean and mean poker player, is plying his usual trade with Trojan Horse and others. Standing next to him is his girlfriend, ANGELVIRUS. INFECTIOUS, an ebullient jazz pianist, and VI, a sultry jazz singer, are rendering "THE CYBERLAND BLUES." GLITCH spots ELVIN.

GLITCH

Elvin!

ELVIN

Hi, there, Glitch.

GLITCH

What are you doin' in these parts?

ELVIN

I just arrived by way of a new computer.

GLITCH

Me, too! We must have left the factory
in the same shipment!

(to others)

Hey, guys, I want you to meet my friend
And awesome computer bugger, Elvin.

CRASH

(shakes his hand)

Howdy, name's Crash. Not bad at that
myself. Pleased to meet you.

ELVIN

Great to meet you, too.

GLITCH

Done anything really bad lately?

ELVIN

Oh, the usual things: messed up some
online banking and brought down a hot
new video game.

GLITCH

(puts out hand)

Put 'er there, partner.

(shakes ELVIN's hand; to bartender)

Set one up for Elvin. What'll you have?

ELVIN

A Memory Upgrade with a twist of lime.
Kind of hungry, too. How about a
Gigabite with mayo?

BARTENDER

Comin' right up.

ELVIN

(looks off)

I see Vi is on tonight.

(waves to her)

Lady bug, sing the blues!

CUT TO:

THE STAGE - ELVIN'S POV

MUSIC: "THE CYBERLAND BLUES," with VI doing the vocal and
INFECTIOUS the piano accompaniment.

VI

WHEN I AIN'T GOT
NO COMPUTER TO BUG,
HM, UM, NO COMPUTER TO BUG!
I FEEL SO LOW,
SO DOGGONE LOW,
YEAH, I FEEL SO LOW,
I MIGHT AS WELL BE,
A LOW-DOWN,
NOTHIN' BUT A LOW-DOWN
BUG IN A RUG!
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH,
I MIGHT AS WELL BE
NOTHIN' BUT A LOW-DOWN,
A LOW-DOWN, NO-COUNT
BUG IN A RUG!

Applause. She sees ELVIN and comes toward him.

VI

Elvin, sweetie!

ELVIN

Vi! Great to see you! That song
always gets to me.

VI

Thank you, dearie. As you know,
it's my signature song.
(hugs him)

CAMERA pulls back and picks up the owner, a proud military
veteran named MAJOR DEFECT.

MAJOR DEFECT

Elvin, my boy! Good to see you
here again.

ELVIN

'Evenin', Major Defect.

MAJOR DEFECT

(to VI)

How about a rendition of the theme
song of my illustrious joint?

(to Elvin)

I can never hear it too often.

(addresses all present)

Come on, ya all, join in.

VI

You got it, Major!

(motions to INFECTIOUS)

Infectious.

INFECTIOUS

Yes, Vi?

VI

Hit it!

INFECTIOUS begins to play.

MUSIC: "AT THE CYBERLAND BAR & GRILLE."

MAJOR DEFECT

(sings)

WHO CAN LOUSE UP YOUR COMPUTER
ABOUT AS SOON AS YOU CAN BOOT 'ER?

ALL

THE COMPUTER BUGS WHO LIKE TO CHILL
AT THE CYBERLAND BAR AND GRILLE!

FROM THE ASSEMBLY LINE
TILL WHEN YOU'RE ONLINE,
WE CAN BUG YOUR HARD- OR SOFTWARE
AND GIVE YOU QUITE A SCARE.
IN FACT, WE CAN BUG IT BEYOND REPAIR.
WE'RE THE COMPUTER BUGS WHO LIKE TO CHILL
AT THE CYBERLAND BAR AND GRILLE.

GO AHEAD AND INSTALL
A VIRUS PROGRAM AND A FIREWALL.
WE'RE HAPPY TO SAY, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO,
SOMEHOW WE'LL STILL GET THROUGH.
YOU JUST CAN'T BUILD THE HIGH TECH
THAT WE CAN'T COMPLETELY WRECK.
WE'RE THE BUGS WHO LIKE TO CHILL,
AT THE CYBERLAND BAR AND GRILLE,
AT THE CYBERLAND BAR AND GRILLE.

ALL applaud for themselves.

MAJOR DEFECT

Good! Good! That song is an inspiration!

(to Elvin)

How's your latest gig?

ELVIN

Awesome. I'm in the kind of computer
every defect dreams of.

MAJOR DEFECT

(claps his back)

Good for you, my boy. Just keep your
nose dirty and don't try to do anything
good. Then everything will be fine.

VI

(to Major Defect)

Don't need to worry about that. Elvin is bad, and by that I don't mean the "g" word.

MAJOR DEFECT

And, I trust, determined to stay that way. As you undoubtedly know, I prefer military hardware. I especially enjoy my frequent intrusions at the Pentagon.

FREEZE strides up to ELVIN.

FREEZE

Elvin! Give me five, baby!

ELVIN

Hey, Freeze! Long time no see.

FREEZE leaves his hand in ELVIN'S and becomes motionless.

ELVIN (CON'D)

Freeze! Snap out of it!

FREEZE

(awakens)

Sorry about that.

ELVIN

Still the same old guy. How ya been?

FREEZE

Destructive as ever, thanks.

(points to Trojan Horse
at the poker table)

Know my friend, Trojan Horse?

ELVIN

Oh, sure.

(reaches out hand)

Hi, TJ. How's it going?

TROJAN HORSE

All right, but I can't help remembering the good old days before automatic updates. Life was so much simpler then.

KING WORM, who is also at the poker table, looks over his shoulder.

KING WORM

(to Elvin)

How about a hand or two? Been a long time since I infiltrated your wallet.

ELVIN

Thanks, King Worm, but I've already had the privilege.

(notices Angleware)

Hi, there. Haven't we met before?

KING WORM

Careful, partner. That's my new girlfriend. Isn't that right, Angelvirus?

ANGELVIRUS

If you insist.

(turns to Elvin)

Hi, handsome.

KING WORM

(to Angelvirus)

Hush up, you mischievous beauty.

(to ELVIN)

Remember, she's mine.

(throws cards on table)

Count me out.

COMMON WORM, a smarmy fellow at the table, objects.

COMMON WORM

Hey, you can't quit now. You're too far ahead.

KING WORM

You should know by now, Common Worm.
I always quit when I'm ahead.

TROJAN HORSE

It's not fair.

KING WORM

Why do you think I do it?
(glance at Angleware)
It's time for a little stroll in
the moonlight, my sweet.
(puts out his arm)

SHE gives ELVIN a come-hither look and then departs with KING WORM.

ELVIN

Wow, what a beautiful virus.

GLITCH

Delete her from your memory, Elvin.
She's taken.

ELVIN

I'll try my best, but -

CRASH

- you know King Worm. He's the
baddest bug on the Net.

FREEZE

And I hear tell he's got secret
connections with the people at
Norton Anti-Virus.

TROJAN HORSE

He could have you eliminated before
you know it.

ELVIN

I hear ya. Now, let me tell why I dropped by. I'd like to invite one of you to perform a little infection for me.

TROJAN HORSE

What kind of infection?

ELVIN

An email caper.

Silence falls.

VI

(calls out)

Anybody got time to do an email caper for Elvin?

FREEZE

(to Elvin)

What type, Elvin?

ELVIN

Love letters from one teenager to another.

A cascade of groans.

ELVIN

(undaunted, holds up little piece of paper)

Come on. I've got the email address right here. And my very survival depends on getting the job done.

MAJOR DEFECT steps up.

MAJOR DEFECT

Is there not one self-respecting virus or worm in this commodious place who will step up and help this humble supplicant?

ALL
(chorus)
Ah, man! Do it yourself! How basic!

ELVIN
But I've already got all the gigabites
I can handle.

MAJOR DEFECT
Elvin, I'm afraid my patrons are looking
for bigger disks to fry. I think you'll
have to make the extra effort and pull
this one off yourself. But do not hesitate
to approach us if and when you have an
incursion that is worthy of our unrivaled
talents.

DISS TO:

EXT. - THE CYBERLAND BAR AND GRILLE

ELVIN exits, a bit despondent, and looks at the piece of paper.
REVERSE: "albert4367@aol.com." HE puts on his helmet and
disappears into a blur of speed.

CUT TO:

INT. - ALBERT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

ALBERT, a husky and brash young fellow, is at his computer, in
his pajamas.

CUT TO:

ECU - THE SCREEN

HE is typing a passionate love letter to KAREN, Jeffrey's
supposed girlfriend. We read the following: "Dear Karen, Jeffrey
is such a dork, especially compared to me. And I love you more
than he ever will. Yours forever, Albert"

CUT TO:

ECU - SCREEN

HE moves his mouse to click on "SEND."

Suddenly, we hear the characteristic announcement America Online makes when at sign off.

AOL ANNOUNCEMENT
(over)
"Good-bye!"

The program shuts down before HE can send the e-mail.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT - ALBERT.

He is in shock.

ALBERT
What the heck?

HE tries to sign back on. The program says, in rapid succession:
"Welcome. Good-bye."

ALBERT
Ah, man, not now!

CUT TO:

CYBERSPACE - ELVIN

HE is smiling, pleased with his handiwork, and puts on his helmet to leave, just as ANGELVIRUS enters, closing the door of the hard drive behind her. SHE sees him.

ANGELVIRUS
Elvin! What are you doing here?

ELVIN
Just having a little fun with Albert's email. What are you doing here?

ANGELVIRUS
I live here. Arrived with the help of Trojan Horse about a month ago.

ELVIN

Wow, too bad you weren't at the Cyberland when I asked someone to do this job for me.

ANGELVIRUS

I would've been happy to. I mess with Albert's computer all the time.

ELVIN

Oh, that is too cool. I'll make a note for the future. Do you mind if I say something personal, Angelvirus?

ANGELVIRUS

I might even like it.

ELVIN

I kind of wish you weren't wired to King Worm.

ANGELVIRUS

You do?

ELVIN

Yes. He one bad cat.

ANGELVIRUS

But then who would I be wired to?

ELVIN

Who else?

ANGELVIRUS

You're so sweet. But what about King Worm?

ELVIN

I'm not afraid of him.

ANGELVIRUS

You aren't?

ELVIN

Not enough to short circuit the
way I feel about you.

ANGELVIRUS

Oh, you send so much current up
and down my spine.

(gives him a little kiss)
Till we intersect again.

DISS TO:

EXT. - CYBERLAND - STREET

Elvin is dancing down the street.

MUSIC: WIRED TO YOU.

ELVIN

(sings)

OH, ZIP AND ZAP!
I'M SO HAP-HAP-HAPPY!
'CAUSE I'M WIRED,
BABY, TO YOU!
YEAH, ALL FIRED
UP OVER YOU!
'CAUSE I'M WIRED,
BABY,
WIRED TO YOU!

ELVIN dances away, happily, as we see KING WORM behind a tree,
with a calculating eye and a thin cigar.

CUT TO:

INT. - GENERAL MEMKO'S COMMAND CENTER

GENERAL MEMO is pacing with great impatience.

GENERAL MEMKO

Lieutenant, I want to know when Surgemaker 1.9
will be ready.

LIEUTENANT LACKO

Soon.

GENERAL MEMKO

I need a date!

LIEUTENANT LACKO

May 15th.

GENERAL MEMKO

Good. I am not as patient this year as I was last year. I would like to have a nickname for my monster surge.

LIEUTENANT LACKO

A nickname?

GENERAL MEMKO

So I have something to remember it by in the glory days of the new Soviet Union that lie ahead - when the Internet is no longer a threat to our happy closed society.

LIEUTENANT LACKO

Any ideas?

GENERAL MEMKO

As a matter of fact, yes. I was thinking about my happy childhood days along the Volga River.

LIEUTENANT LACKO

Yes, general.

GENERAL MEMKO

And I asked myself, what sounds like Volga that has to do with electricity?

LIEUTENANT LACKO

(looking right at the voltmeter)

Do you suppose there is such a word?

GENERAL MEMKO
We must search for it.

The voltmeter starts to spin again. LIEUTENANT LACKO smacks it with the back of his hand.

LIEUTENANT LACKO
(notices the word "Voltmeter";
eyes light up)
I have it!

GENERAL MEMKO
What?

LIEUTENANT LACKO
The word.

GENERAL MEMKO
What word?

LIEUTENANT LACKO
For the name.
(demonstrates)
Volga.
(points to "Voltmeter")
Volts!

GENERAL MEMKO
Excellent, Lieutenant Lacko!
(slaps his back; dust comes out of it)
Let's think about that.

INT. - JEFFREY'S SCHOOL - DAY

JEFFREY is in the hallway, talking with his friends, ANTHONY and RICHARD.

ANTHONY
You got Galactic Combat 4?

JEFFREY
Yeah! And on my new computer it's truly awesome.

RICHARD

So when do we get to come over and
play it?

CUT TO:

ALBERT AND KAREN - JEFFREY'S POV

ALBERT is walking with KAREN, who is with her friend, NANCY.

ALBERT

But Karen -

KAREN

- You promised, Albert. And I am
so disappointed.

ALBERT

I tried, Karen, but every time
I clicked to send it, AOL crashed.

KAREN

I didn't hear about it.

NANCY

We exchanged emails on AOL three
times last night.

ALBERT

It's true, Nancy.
(to Karen)

I thought of you all night.

KAREN

You did?

ALBERT

Wait till tonight, that's all. Then
you'll get an email from me any girl
would die for.

KAREN

We'll see.

NANCY

Just don't expect her to sit around
all night, waiting?

KAREN

(to Albert)

Till later, Albert.

KAREN and NANCY walk away.

NANCY

He has the I. Q. of a carrot.

KAREN

I think he's kind of handsome -
and strong, too.

NANCY

But Jeffrey is so much smarter.
(dreamily)

He's -

KAREN

(cuts her off)

- I like him, too.

NANCY

You are so spoiled.

CAMERA pulls back as JEFFREY comes up to her.

JEFFREY

Hi, Karen.

KAREN

Hi, Jeffrey.

NANCY

Hi.

JEFFREY

(to Karen)

Can we talk?

KAREN

Sure.

(to NANCY)

Later, OK?

NANCY

Gotcha.

JEFFREY

Did you get my e-mail last night?

KAREN

Yes. Thank you.

JEFFREY

So?

KAREN

It was so sweet. I really liked it.

JEFFREY

Great! You didn't get one from
from any other guys, did you?

KAREN

Well, not last night.

JEFFREY

Excellent! You know I want
us to go together.

KAREN

I know. But I need time. It's a
big decision.

JEFFREY

How can you do this to me?

KAREN

Because I like you, that's how.

SHE walks away. ANTHONY and RICHARD come up to him.

ANTHONY
So, how'd you do?

JEFFREY
Things may finally be starting
to go my way.

CUT TO:

INT. - WRIGHT HOME - DAY

JEFFREY, ANTHONY, AND RICHARD enter. We see PAT, JEFFREY'S POV.

JEFFREY
Hi, Mom! We're gonna play my
new game. OK?

PAT
You better help your father first.

JEFFREY
Why?

PAT
That new computer is acting up
again.

JEFFREY
Elvin!

PAT
What?

JEFFREY
Never mind.
(to Anthony and Richard)
Parent-rescue time!

JEFFREY and his TWO FRIENDS head toward the den.

CUT TO:

DEN - JEFFREY'S POV

ED is at the computer, at his wit's end.

JEFFREY

Hey, Dad. What's up?

ED

A disaster, that's what. I tried to buy 100 shares of Amazon.com on this lousy computer.

JEFFREY

And?

ED

When I clicked "buy," it sold every stock I own.

JEFFREY

How could he do that?

ED

How could who do what? The computer did it!

JEFFREY

Can't you just buy them back?

ED

Sure, if I want to lose money. All the prices went up.

JEFFREY

Well, maybe it didn't really happen.

(to computer)

I mean, you wanna stay?

(hits computer)

Then stop it! You hear me! And fix what you did!

ELVIN

(off)

OK, OK, sorry!

The screen, which has a stock-trading program on it, starts flashing and then goes back to normal.

ED

Hey, who said that?

JEFFREY

I did.

ED

What? Now you're a ventriloquist?

(to the three kids)

Talking to a computer? Take it from me.

You kids spend too much time with these things.

JEFFREY

Sure, Dad. What's it say now?

ED

(looks at screen)

Wait a minute. Hey, all my stock is
back in my portfolio.

JEFFREY

Good. Are you sure?

ED

Yeah, right there. I still own it all.

(reaches and clicks "BUY")

Ah, ha! Got the 100 shares of Amazon, too!

But I swear it sold everything.

JEFFREY

(points to computer)

Can we have it now?

DISS TO:

DEN - THREE-SHOT - JEFFREY, ANTHONY, AND RICHARD

JEFFREY AND ANTHONY are in the middle of Galactic Combat 4. The usual explosions and alien body count. JEFFREY seems stressed. We sense that ANTHONY could win.

ANTHONY
Got ya now! It's annihilation
time!

JEFFREY
Like heck it is!

Suddenly, the program goes haywire, with rapid-fire explosions
and strange effects.

ANTHONY
Hey, man, what's happening?
(to Anthony)
Where's my starship?

RICHARD
And the body count, man? You were winning.

ANTHONY
I thought this computer was hot, Jeffrey.
But it sucks.

JEFFREY
(bangs on computer)
Elvin! Come off it!

ANTHONY
Elvin? That's the second time you
said that.

RICHARD
Really weird, Jeffrey. Who is Elvin?

JEFFREY
Nobody. Just a new curse word I invented.

ANTHONY
All I know is, I was destroying your
star fleet. And this thing -

JEFFREY
- I was just sucking you into a black
hole.

ANTHONY

Oh, sure. Can you get it working again?

JEFFREY

You have no idea.

(slams computer one more time)

CUT TO:

REVERSE SHOT. ENTRANCE TO DEN.

ALYSON enters in tears, followed by PAT and ED. The THREE TEENAGERS react.

ALYSON

The computer did it. I swear.

ED

No doubt.

PAT

(to Ed)

We believe you, sweetheart.

JEFFREY

What's wrong now?

PAT

Alyson has been suspended from school.

ED

For an entire week!

JEFFREY

How'd that happen?

ALYSON

(holds out school paper)

Look.

PAT

It's so embarrassing.

JEFFREY

(takes it and reads; laughs;
to Alyson)

No wonder.

(to Anthony and Richard)

She wrote right on the paper, "My
teacher is a dork." Can you believe it?

ANTHONY and RICHARD snicker.

ALYSON

It was a stupid assignment. But I
deleted that right after I wrote it.

(to Pat)

I did, honest.

ED

She maintains that the computer put
the offending phrase back in. And,
knowing this so-called gaming machine,
we believe her.

PAT

(to ALYSON)

Don't cry, dear.

ED

I'm taking it back - before the
warranty expires!

CUT TO:

DEN - NIGHT

ELVIN is on the computer screen, looking dejected.

ELVIN

I said, "I'm sorry."

JEFFREY

I thought you were going to behave.

ELVIN

I did my best to be ...
(tries to say "good" but
can only stutter on "g.")
... g-, g-, g-. I did, honest.

JEFFREY

You're being as bad as ever, and you
know it.

ELVIN

I am not. You should know all the
bad things I thought of doing but didn't.
(becomes apologetic again)
I'll cramp my style even more, OK?

JEFFREY

It's too late. You're out of here.

ELVIN

What about Albert's e-mail? He writes
a great love letter.

JEFFREY

He can hardly write his name.

ELVIN

OK, then, let 'em rip. One hot email
after another.

JEFFREY

You're such a low life.

ELVIN

I'm just trying to keep my happy home.
I like it in here. I like you, too.

JEFFREY

Sure, you do.

ELVIN

I'll prove it. Want me to pay Albert
another friendly visit?

JEFFREY

Hey, why not? One last shot before
you're gonzo!

DISS TO:

EXT. - STREET IN CYBERSPACE - NIGHT.

ELVIN and ANGELVIRUS are strolling along, hand in hand.

ELVIN

We had great fun at Albert's expense,
didn't we?

ANGELVIRUS

Yes, dear. We mess up email so well
together.

ELVIN

I think so, too.
(squeezes her hand; turn to her)

MUSIC: "YOU CLICK WITH ME."

ELVIN

WHEN I FEEL YOUR WARM CARESS,
HM, YOU DELETE MY LONELINESS.

ANGELVIRUS

YOUR TENDER, LOVING TOUCH
UPGRADES MY LIFE SO MUCH.

BOTH

OH, BABE, YOU CLICK WITH ME.
DON'T NEED A ZOOM TO SEE,
MY LOVE,
CLICK, CLICK, THIS COULD BE
TRUE LOVE,
'CAUSE YOU CLICK WITH ME.
YEAH, BABE, CLICK, CLICK, CLICK
YOU CLICK WITH ME.

ELVIN
YOUR INPUT IS, OH, SO SWEET
IT LIFTS ME RIGHT OFF MY FEET.

ANGLEWARE
I NEVER FELT MY HEART RACE
LIKE THIS IN ALL OF CYBERSPACE.

BOTH
OH, BABE, YOU CLICK WITH ME.
DON'T NEED A ZOOM TO SEE,
MY LOVE,
CLICK, CLICK, THIS COULD BE
TRUE LOVE,
'CAUSE YOU CLICK WITH ME.
YEAH, BABE, CLICK, CLICK, CLICK,
YOU CLICK WITH ME.
YEAH, BABE, YOU CLICK WITH ME!

CAMERA picks up KING WORM, stepping out of the darkness.

KING WORM
- Hey, Elvin.
 (takes out derringer;
 pulls back hammer)
See how this clicks with you.

ANGELVIRUS
No, King Worm! Don't shoot.

KING WORM
Shut your port, Angelvirus. What are
you doing with my bug?

ELVIN
Well, the truth is, I like her.

KING WORM
Reason enough to be eliminated.

ANGELVIRUS
But, King Worm, I love him.

KING WORM
(to Angleware)
That's the point. He infiltrated
your heart.
(cocks hammer)

ANGELVIRUS
Please, don't hurt him.

KING WORM
I never hurt anybody. I always aim
for the heart.

ELVIN
You wouldn't shoot an unarmed bug,
would you?

KING WORM
They're my favorite kind.

ANGELVIRUS
You are so bad.

KING WORM
It's my talent.

ANGELVIRUS
Please, I'll do anything you want.

KING WORM
Promise you'll never to see this
defect again. Then maybe I won't
"quarantine" him.

ANGELVIRUS
Maybe?

KING WORM
Say you'll always be wired to me,
and only me.

ANGELVIRUS
I promise.

ELVIN

But I can't live without you.

KING WORM

Or with her.

(aims)

ANGELVIRUS

Please, Elvin. We have to say
good-bye.

KING WORM

One way or the other.

ELVIN

But, Angelvirus -

ANGELVIRUS

- No, no, Elvin, think of this. As
long as you're alive, there's hope.
But, if you're eliminated -

KING WORM

(fires a shot at Elvin's feet)
- as in, repaired forever.

ANGELVIRUS

Oh, I can't bear it. Please, Elvin,
say good-bye.

ELVIN

All right, Angelvirus. Maybe you're right.
(puts on his helmet)
Alive is better. And you never know.
Tomorrow he could get quarantined.

KING WORM

You should only louse up computers for
so long. Just head on down the Internet.
(starts shooting at his feet)

ELVIN speeds off.

KING WORM (CONT'D)

Cheer up, Angelvirus. As bad bugs go,
I'm the best.

(takes her in his arms)

You know, baby, you haunt every byte
of my memory.

CUT TO:

INT. - WRIGHT DEN - DAY

JEFFREY is talking to ELVIN.

JEFFREY

Great work, Elvin. Karen told Albert
off today.

ELVIN

(sad)

G, g, g - that's nice.

JEFFREY

What did you do to his email?

ELVIN

Wonderful stuff. But I can't take all
the credit. I had a little help from
my former girlfriend.

JEFFREY

You have a girlfriend?

ELVIN

Had one. But it looks as if we'll never
cross data paths again.

SOUND of door opening. REVERSE POV. ED enters the den with PAT
in pursuit. ELVIN vanishes into the computer.

PAT

If you don't book our vacation today,
you'll lose the discount, Ed.

ED

I'll book it as soon as I get home with the new computer. You want to go to Hawaii? This thing will book us to Havana.

DISS TO:

MEDIUM SHOT - ED

HE'S unplugging the computer.

CUT TO:

JEFFREY

Come on, Dad, we can work the bugs out.

PAT

He's even afraid to book our vacation on it.

JEFFREY

What if I book it for you? If it acts up one more time -
 (aside; toward Elvin)
 - hear that! - it's gone.

ED

I'll get one with just as many bells and whistles.

JEFFREY

Can I just have the itinerary?
 (holds out hand)
 Please, dad. One more shot.

PAT

(to Ed)

At least, it'll be in time to get the discount.

ED
(relents)
All right. But remember: we want
to go to Hawaii!

CUT TO:

EXT. - MAUI - DAY

The WRIGHT'S are in a taxi to their hotel.

PAT
It's so pretty here.

ED
Yeah, Hawaii. What do you know?
We made it.

PAT
Good job, Jeffrey.

ALYSON
Yea!

JEFFREY
Thanks.

CUT TO:

INT. - MARRIOTT OR OTHER HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

The WRIGHT family is checking in.

CLERK
Welcome to the Maui Marriott.

ED
Thank you.
(hands over vouchers)
We reserved two oceanfront rooms.

CLERK
Right away, sir.
(consults computer)

ED

(deep breath of air)

I'm starting to unwind already.

PAT

I can't wait to relax on the beach.

CLERK

I'm sorry, sir, what was that name again?

ED

Wright, as in Frank Lloyd Wright.

(spells it)

W-R-I-G-H-T. Got it?

CLERK

I don't see a reservation under that name.

ED

Ah, ha! What do you mean?

(points at voucher)

Look at the voucher. It says right here.

The Maui Marriot.

CLERK

Yes, sir. Did you purchase these online?

PAT

Our son did.

ALYSON

He's a computer whiz.

PAT

Can't you just put us in another room?

CLERK

I would, ma'am, but we're completely booked. We have a convention.

PAT

What about another hotel?

CLERK

Every hotel is booked at this time
of year.

ED

(a bit crazily)

What do we do on an island without
a room? Sleep on the beach?

CLERK

I understand, sir.

ED

If that computer messed up our
vacation, I won't just return it.
I'll destroy it.

JEFFREY

Don't obsess, all right?

CLERK looks up from computer.

CLERK

I think I found the problem.

ED

What is it?

CLERK

You don't have a reservation in Maui;
you have one in Miami.

ED

Miami?

PAT

Miami?

ALYSON

But I want to stay here.

ED

There won't be two pieces still
screwed together. Not two pieces!

JEFFREY

I've had it, too. Elvin is dead meat.

ED

What?

JEFFREY

Never mind.

PAT

(to clerk)

You've got to help us.

CLERK

I can get you two rooms on the big
island of Hawaii.

PAT

We were there last year.

ALYSON

I want to stay in Maui!

CLERK

I'm sorry. It's the best I can do.
I'd grab them before somebody else does.

ED

We'll take 'em.

(to the sky)

Wait till I get my mighty mitts on
that computer!

DISS TO:

INT. - WRIGHT HOME - DAY

JEFFREY is at the computer. ELVIN is in the screen, pleading.

ELVIN
But Maui, Miami? How could I resist?

JEFFREY
Doesn't matter, Elvin. You are out
of here!

ELVIN
But what about Karen and Albert?

CUT TO:

REVERSE - DEN ENTRANCE

ED enters with a hammer.

ED
Let me at it!

ELVIN disappears. HE peeks out from edge of screen from time to
time, fretting for his survival.

JEFFREY
Come on, Dad! What will we use to
trade for a new one?

ED
No, no! It's mine!

PAT enters.

PAT
But, Ed, it's worth over two-thousand dollars.

ED
I don't care. For once in my life,
I want to do something totally irrational.
I've earned it!

JEFFREY
Then we'll never get a new one.

PAT
He's right, Ed. Put down the hammer and
exchange it.

ED
All right! But it goes back now! Got it?

JEFFREY
I agree, OK?

ELVIN
(off)
Oh, no! I'm finished!

ED
Who said that?

PAT
I don't know.

ED
(grabs plug and pulls it out)
Famous last words!

CUT TO:

INT. - COMPUTER STORE - DAY

There are many computers on display. Some monitors are on. In the background is the television department, where a big monitor is visible. JEFFREY and ED are with the salesman, who is looking over the computer they're returning.

SALESMAN
Let's have a look.
(turns computer on)
How often does it act up?

ED
It doesn't matter. We just want
a new one.
(holds up paper)
Here's the warranty!

SALESMAN

Yes, sir.

The computer boots up.

ED

(turns away)

I can't even stand to look at it.

JEFFREY

Relax, Dad. We'll be out of here in no time.

SALESMAN

(presses a few buttons)

Seems fine now.

ED

I want the same brand I bought five years ago.

(points)

That one.

JEFFREY

Awe, Dad, come on. That crappy brand, again?

(to salesman)

Can't we just make an even trade for the same computer?

DISS TO:

JEFFREY and ED are waiting for the salesman to finish the paperwork. The computer with ELVIN in it is in the background. ELVIN pops into view.

ELVIN

(whispers

Jeffrey, please, don't leave me here. I'll be g-, g-, g-. I promise!

JEFFREY

Forget it! You're beyond help.

ED
What's going on?

JEFFREY
Nothing.

CUT TO:

SALESMAN hands ED sheet of paper.

SALESMAN
Just show this at the front desk.

ELVIN peeks out, a tear in his eye.

ELVIN
Oh, dear, homeless again.

CUT TO:

HAND-HELD CAMERA - COMPUTER MONITORS

Big disturbance, as CAMERA pans computer monitors, which have suddenly malfunctioned and display only slanted lines and other types of confusion. JEFFREY, ED, SALESMAN, and CUSTOMERS in background react. Then GENERAL MEMKO, our obviously crazed, renegade RUSSIAN GENERAL, appears on all the monitors.

GENERAL MEMKO
Good morning, America! This is General Memko, of once-great Soviet Union ...
(crazed laugh)
... welcoming you to new, improved Soviet Union.

JEFFREY
Hey, Dad, look.

ED
It's just some loony commercial.

SALESMAN
I never saw it before.

ED

Then it's a whacky movie.

JEFFREY

Is it?

ALL watch, as the horrible reality sets in.

CUT TO:

GENERAL MEMKO

So you think you have won cold war?

(diabolical laugh)

But who is going to win hot new one? I, the savior of the Soviet Union, will tell you, you happy-go-lucky capitalists.

(renewed firmness)

Here is, as you say, the scoop. I am now in command of entire Internet - evil American invention that destroyed Soviet Union with information highway. Now, I will strike back with gigantic electrical surge that will destroy Internet for all time.

(laughs again)

SALESMAN

This can't be real.

GENERAL MEMKO

(general looks toward salesman; aside)

Of course, it's real, dummy.

Hubbub among salespeople and customers.

JEFFREY

This is too much, man. Dad, I think it's real.

ED

Today, anything is possible.

CUT TO:

ELVIN is listening, too, and is in pain.

ELVIN

Oh, no. My friends and I will suffer a
fate worse than deletion. We'll all be toast!

GENERAL MEMKO

Then you can no longer tempt Soviet citizens
With fun consumer society and sexy Hollywood
entertainment. Soviet Union and communism
will rise again. And I will be greatest hero
in all of Russian, maybe even get to be buried
in glass casket next to Lenin.

(evil laugh)

So let me close with famous phrase from
Englishman named Shakespeare. Beware
the ides of May.

SUPER appears on screen: "BEWARE THE IDES OF MAY."

JEFFREY

The ides of May? I thought it was March.

GENERAL MEMKO

Oh, soon I will be so happy!

(turns to side; talks to his technicians)

My Netcast worked, right?

GENERAL MEMKO fades out but super remains on screen as title
against black. Then, with momentary difficulty, everything
returns to normal.

SALESMAN

(swallows hard; to customer)

Can I help you?

FIRST CUSTOMER

Can anybody? This is terrifying!

SECOND CUSTOMER

If I can't go online, what will I do with
all my spare time? It's frightening!

THIRD CUSTOMER

What about ecommerce?

ELVIN reappears and calls to JEFFREY.

ELVIN

Jeffrey! Save me! Take me home!

JEFFREY

Forget it!

ED

Forget what?

(indicates slip)

I have the slip right here.

JEFFREY

Nothing.

ELVIN

But I can help! I'm your only
hope!

JEFFREY

Yeah, sure.

ELVIN

If I can get online, maybe I can
stop him!

JEFFREY

You - do something -

(imitates him)

g-, g-, good for once? Give me
a break.

ELVIN

Good for you! Bad for him!
I'll bug his computers.

JEFFREY

How can you even find him?

ELVIN
My friends will help me. What
choice do they have?

CUSTOMERS see ELVIN. THEY start to gather round his screen.

FIRST CUSTOMER
Hey, look, what a cute cartoon character.

SECOND CUSTOMER
Do you know his name?

JEFFREY
You don't want to.

FIRST CUSTOMER
You've seen the program before?

ED
Too many times.

MUSIC: OH, PITY ME!

ELVIN
(falls on his knees, sings)
OH, SAVE ME,
JEFFREY,
CAN'T YOU SEE
I'M YOUR BEST BET
TO SAVE THE INTERNET -
IF ONLY I CAN GET ONLINE
WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME?
SO SAVE ME,
JEFFREY,
CAN'T YOU SEE
THAT IF YOU DO
I JUST MIGHT SAVE YOU!

JEFFREY
Oh, man, is this tough or what?

SECOND CUSTOMER
At least, give him a shot.

ED

You give him a shot.

ELVIN

I promise. I'll be g-, g-
 (finally gets it out)
 - good! There, I said it. G-, g-,
 good!

ED

Huh?

FIRST CUSTOMER

Who are you?

ELVIN

(sings and dances)

I'M ELVIN, THE COMPUTER BUG!
 ELVIN, THE COMPUTER BUG!
 I'M CUTE ENOUGH TO HUG
 AND BAD ENOUGH TO SLUG.
 (more to Jeffrey)
 BUT IF I SAY I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND
 IT'S NOT ALL PRETEND,
 NO, IT'S NOT ALL PRETEND
 IF I SAY I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND!

SALESMAN

Wow, this is the first computer bug
 I've ever seen!

SECOND CUSTOMER

And it sings, too!

SALESMAN

(calls to other salespeople)

Guys, come here! A real, live computer bug!

Other SALES PEOPLE and CUSTOMERS gather around.

CROWD

Wow! Ooh! Ahh! Look at that! A
 computer bug! I'd never thought they'd
 be cute.

ELVIN

(to Jeffrey)

Please, get me out of here.

(to crowd)

I promise - I'll do something good!
I'll bug the crazy general's computer -
And save the Internet!

JEFFREY

How can I trust you?

ED

(to Jeffrey)

Why didn't you tell me about this,
Jeffrey?

ELVIN

But don't you see? I have to do
Something good! I'll be doing it to
save my friends and my very self!
Our whole way of life could go up in
smoke!

SALESMAN

What do you know? This bug wants
to help.

SECOND SALESMAN

Wow, saved by a computer bug! Who
would've thought?

FIRST CUSTOMER

Got a better idea?

Crowd cheers.

CUSTOMERS

(Hubbub)

Give him a chance. Free Elvin! What
other hope is there?

ED
 (to Elvin)
 You can do it from here.

ELVIN
 I only work from home. Your home.
 I love it there!

JEFFREY
 Come on, Dad. He likes us.

ED
 How can I be so lucky?
 (to salesman)
 All right, all right. Pack it back up.
 (boasts to crowd)
 Returning it is one thing. Saving the
 world is another.

JEFFREY
 Good man, Dad.

CROWD
 Yea! Good luck, Elvin! We'll be rooting
 for you! Save the Internet!

DISS TO:

INT. WRIGHT DEN.

The computer is set up again. ELVIN is in the screen. JEFFREY
 is about to go online. ED, PAT, and ALYSON look on.

ELVIN
 Quick! Open Explorer! I have work
 to do!

ED
 (to Elvin)
 If you fail, don't come back!

JEFFREY
 He won't be able to, Dad. Ready,
 Elvin?

ELVIN

(puts his helmet on)
Ready. And I promise you - I will
do my best to do my worst.

JEFFREY

Come back safe, all right.

ED

Don't encourage him.

JEFFREY goes online, and ELVIN disappears into cyberspace.

ELVIN

And away I go!

ED

(to Pat)
Can you believe it? Depending
on a computer bug to save the
Internet!

PAT

I hope he can do it. I really
like shopping online.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE: NEWS COVERAGE of the threat. Use well-known television
NEWSCASTER, perhaps a cynical one like BILL REILLY.

NEWSCASTER

Today a renegade Russian General commandeered
The Internet and vowed to destroy it. He
hopes by doing so to restore the former Soviet
Union to power. Fortunately, even the Russian
government has pledged to help hunt him down.
Now, for some truly zany news. A computer bug,
named Elvin, appeared at a retail store and
vowed to save us. Coming up next. An interview
with the family that owns the computer this
do-gooder apparently calls home. Stay tuned,
folks. This story gets wilder by the minute.

DISS TO:

WRIGHT family sitting with famous newscaster.

NEWSCASTER

I understand you're the young man who
first befriended this computer bug.

JEFFREY

Yes, sir.

NEWSCASTER

And he calls himself Elvin?

JEFFREY

That's right, sir.

ED

He wrecked my bank account. He
destroyed our vacation.

ALYSON

And got me suspended from school.

PAT

But, I have to admit, he is cute.

NEWSCASTER

Of course. Now, I understand this Elvin
is on the Internet as we speak, trying to
locate the Russian general's computers and
do his thing to disable them.

JEFFREY

That's right. But first he has to round
up his friends.

NEWSCASTER

Did you say his friends?

CUT TO:

INT. - KAREN'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

KAREN and her friend NANCY are sitting on the couch with Albert, who'd drinking a quart of milk.

KAREN

Wow, look. Jeffrey's famous.

ALBERT

I can't stand it. He's just a computer nerd who got lucky.

NANCY

Get used to it, Albert. He is so smart.

KAREN

How cool. He and his computer bug are going to save the worldwide Web.

ALBERT

Yeah, just him and Elvin. Get real! He is so not cool.

KAREN

If you don't stop badmouthing him, I'm going to ask you to leave.

CUT TO:

NEWSCASTER

Now, we got live for a special Presidential announcement.

CUT TO:

PODIUM WITH PRESIDENTIAL SEAL

PRESIDENT enters with notes.

ANNOUNCER

(over)

And now the President of the United States.

PRESIDENT

Good evening, to my fellow Americans and people everywhere who log onto the Internet. I want to assure you, especially those among you whose livelihoods depend on it, that the United States and its NATO allies, along with Russia, are doing everything possible to locate and neutralize the renegade Russian General who has threatened to destroy the Internet. At this very moment, the combined forces of NATO are on their way to Georgia -

(aside to aide)

- I thought Georgia was in Atlanta.

(recognition; back to camera)

To the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, where this outlaw general is apparently operating from.

(smile)

I encourage you to stay calm and be assured ...

(smiles slyly)

... the world is not entirely dependent on the services of a computer bug.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE CYBERLAND BAR & THRILL

ELVIN screeches to a stop outside and heads for the door.

REVERSE SHOT: ELVIN enters. The BUGS are watching the TV news.

GLITCH

Look, it's Elvin!

ANGELVIRUS

You're famous, sweetie!

KING WORM

For all the wrong reasons.

ELVIN

Then you know why I'm here?

GLITCH
(points to TV)
Who doesn't?

FREEZE
Talk about scary.

KING WORM
Promising to do something good? I
Always knew you were a low life.

TROJAN HORSE
Come on, man. He's right. We could
all be smoked bacon!.

VI
(speaks it as an
abbreviation)
O-O-B, which stands for out of
business.

MAJOR DEFECT enters.

MAJOR DEFECT
I hear tell you came here to ask us
to join you in doin' somethin' good?

ELVIN
Yes, I did.

MAJOR DEFECT
But, son, it goes against my nature
and the nature of every self-respecting
computer bug.

ELVIN
What else can we do?

KING WORM
I say, it's a human problem. Let them
work it out.

ELVIN
Oh, sure.

TROJAN HORSE

What if they don't find him in time?

ELVIN

We'll all be toast.

MAJOR DEFECT

I have considered that possibility and believe it is a point of some consequence.

INFECTIOUS enters.

INFECTIOUS

I think we should all consider doing
Something g-, g-, g-

MAJOR DEFECT slaps him on back.

INFECTIOUS (CONT'D)

Good! There! I said it.

MAJOR DEFECT

All in favor of joinin' Elvin, raise
your hand. I always accommodate the wishes
of my guests. That is why The Cyberland is
the leading Internet Virus Café.

(all raise hands except King Worm;
Counts on fingers; to Elvin)

The verdict is in. We're with you, Elvin.

ELVIN

Then let's hit the Internet.

TROJAN HORSE

What if his anti-virus program is set up
for automatic updates?

MAJOR DEFECT

We'll face that possibility should we
confront it.

ELVIN

First, we have to find him. And there's only one way he can access the Internet. He has to go online. When he does, we've got to be there.

INFECTION

Sounds like fun.

GLITCH

If we can locate him in time.

INFECTIOUS

So we can do something good.

VI

I don't know about you all, but I'm with Elvin, even if I do have to do something - how do you say it? - good?

ELVIN

Look at it this way. We'll only be doing what we do best - attacking a computer.

VI

That makes me feel so much better.

MAJOR DEFECT

And by doin' that g-, g-, good deed, we will live on to wreak havoc in the future.

FREEZE

But what if the big power surge zaps the Internet while we're still on it?

KING WORM

You'll all get roasted, that's what.

ELVIN

If we don't take that chance, we're sure to go up smoke. Don't you see, we're trapped?

MAJOR DEFECT

Elvin, I didn't realize you were an accomplished military tactician. If we get through this, I want you to accompany me to the Pentagon from time to time.

(to all)

I have determined that there's no escape. We have got to do something good, because it's for our own good. Unfortunately, our selfless act will also be of significant benefit to the human race. Nevertheless, I suggest we proceed.

MUSIC: "DO SOMETHING GOOD? EGAD!"

COMPUTER BUGS

(sing)

DO SOMETHING GOOD? EGAD!
BUT LUCKY FOR US,
IT'S REQUIRES US
TO DO SOMETHING BAD

OH, TALK ABOUT A FATE
ANY BUG WOULD HATE,
THE AWFUL TRUTH IS WE SHOULD
DO SOMETHING GOOD.

OH, IT GOES AGAINST OUR CODE
OF ONLY DOING OUR WORST
BUT THAT'S HOW WE'VE BEEN CURSED,
SO LET'S ALL HIT THE ROAD.

AND DO SOMETHING GOOD? EGAD!
YES, BUT LUCKY FOR US,
IT REQUIRES US
TO DO SOMETHING BAD.
SOMETHING BAD!
OH, SO BAD, BAD, BAD!

ELVIN

Onto the Internet!

ANGELVIRUS

I want to go, too.

ELVIN

It's too dangerous, Angelvirus.

KING WORM

That's right. She'll wait right here with me.

ANGELVIRUS

(to KING WORM)

You're not going?

KING WORM

I've got other chips to fry.

ANGELVIRUS

I'm going -

(to King Worm)

- because it's the right thing to do.

KING WORM

Don't speak that way. Remember: doin' right is always wrong. And apparently I'm the only one here willin' to stand for that principle, even if it costs me my life.

ANGELVIRUS

I don't care what you say. I'm going.

ELVIN

(puts on helmet)

All right, then, Russia here we come.

MAJOR DEFECT

Forward, infect!

VI

Wait for me! I can do a lot of damage myself.

All of the COMPUTER BUGS except KING WORM speed out of the Cyberland Bar & Thrill.

KING WORM

I don't know what's the world is
comin' to.

CUT TO:

EXT. - GEORGIA - DAY

Helicopters circling, NATO and RUSSIAN TROOPS on the ground with binoculars and walkie-talkies, fighter jets zooming high above, with more planes taking off of carrier ships.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT - AMERICAN OFFICER

AMERICAN OFFICER

(on walkie-talkie)

No sign of Memko's hideout yet.

CUT TO:

INT. - GENERAL'S MEMKO'S UNDERGROUND CONTROL CENTER

We are in GENERAL MEMKO'S control center, deep in a mountain. Everything looks high-tech, but it's falling apart for want of maintenance funds. Push an occasional button and nothing happens. Pull a lever and it may break off. Otherwise, things are fine. MEMKO is pacing about before the controls and monitors. His numerous cohorts are in their places. LIEUTENANT LACKO, a crazed young adherent and his top officer, is at the controls.

GENERAL MEMKO

Only one more hour, eh, Lieutenant Lacko, and it will be the ides of May.

LIEUTENANT LACKO

Yes, General Memko. Surgemaker 1.9 is A-OK.

(pulls lever; it breaks off)

GENERAL MEMKO
Have it repaired immediately.

LIEUTENANT LACKO
Yes, General!
(activates speaker)
Welder, on the double.
(points to monitor)
I do not understand. The Russian army has
joined in the search for us!

GENERAL MEMKO
Fools! They have degenerated so much
they don't even know a Soviet hero when
they see one.

LIEUTENANT LACKO
I am made sad for my homeland.

GENERAL MEMKO
Sometimes, comrade, the smarter you are,
the more upset the world makes you. But
even they will never find us. You know my
nickname is The Russian Groundhog.

CUT TO:

CYBERSPACE

ELVIN and the other COMPUTER BUGS are taking a break. They seem
tired and frustrated.

ELVIN
Two hours and -

GLITCH
- still no sign of his IP address.

CRASH
And we've covered Russia like a swarm
of spammers.

ANGELVIRUS
What do you think, Elvin?

ELVIN

I guess I just don't think well enough.

VI

Maybe the human beings will find him.

MAJOR DEFECT

We've got the inside track. Either we seek and destroy or nobody will.

ELVIN

I suggest we split up and search different directories.

MAJOR DEFECT

Excellent tactic.

(to others)

All right. Move out!

THEY all vanish at high speed.

CUT TO:

INT. - WRIGHT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

ED, PAT, AND ALYSON are watching the evening news.

NEWSCASTER

As the Ides of May draws closer, panic is setting in, especially at the big ecommerce sites, which are totally dependent on the Internet.

CUT TO:

TELEVISION SCREEN - PANIC SCENES

People in front of computers, clicking the mouse frantically, checking surge protectors, even unplugging computers. SUPERS indicate locations: AMAZON.COM, EBAY, YAHOO.

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)

(over)

And millions are getting in their last online purchases while they can. Meanwhile, Microsoft has offered 25 billion dollars to anyone who can stop General Memko or persuade him to spare all Microsoft products. However, it may be a case of too much too late.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT - WRIGHT HOME -TELEVISION SET IS ON

ED

(to Jeffrey)

I thought your pal was going to save us.

JEFFREY

There's still almost an hour before midnight.

ALYSON

And the ides of May.

(to Jeffrey)

He better move his butt.

CUT TO:

INT. - KAREN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

KAREN is at her computer, reading e-mail.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT - COMPUTER SCREEN

We see an e-mail to her from Albert. It reads: "Ha! Ha! Where's Jeffrey's computer bug when we need him? What a joke!"

CAMERA pulls back a bit to pick up KAREN'S hands as they move to the keyboard. SHE types a response to ALBERT. It reads: "Got a better plan, Einstein?"

CUT TO:

INT. - NATO FIELD HEADQUARTERS - DAY

An abundance of generals. Maps being studied. Various languages being spoken. Maybe nobody understands anybody. Phone rings. COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER hands it to GENERAL POWERS, the American commander of all the forces.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

General Powers, it's President Trifle.

GENERAL POWERS

Yes, Mr. President?... Not a sign, sir.
(looks at watch)

I know, President Trifle. The ides of May... How am I doing? If you ask me, there are too many generals in the tent.

CUT TO:

INT. - GENERAL MEMKO'S CONTROL CENTER

GENERAL MEMKO

(rubs hands together)

Only minutes to go.

LIEUTENANT LACKO

(hits clock on console to
check it)

Yes, General. Looks like nine, maybe ten.

GENERAL MEMKO

What? You don't know.

LIEUTENANT LACKO

We couldn't afford quartz, remember?

GENERAL MEMKO

Check the power.

(flips through some envelopes)

I trust you paid the electric bill.

We don't want any last-minute surprises.

LIEUTENANT LACKO

Everything is set for launch.

(gets a call; picks up phone)

Not good.

(hangs up; turns to General)

LIEUTENANT LACKO

Security has picked up NATO forces entering Georgia.

GENERAL MEMKO

Entering Georgia already? Don't worry. The Soviet Union will rise again.

CUT TO:

EXT. - VARIOUS TROOPS IN THE FIELD

An AMERICAN OFFICER and a RUSSIAN OFFICER, TALKING.

AMERICAN OFFICER

Any sign of Memko's hideout?

RUSSIAN OFFICER

Nyet!

AMERICAN OFFICER

I said "yet."

RUSSIAN OFFICER

And I said "nyet."

AMERICAN OFFICER

Hey, this could be a song.

(sings)

I say "yet." And you say "nyet."

(field phone rings; picks up)

AMERICAN OFFICER (CONT'D)
Nyet, General Powers. I mean, no.
Do you read me?

CUT TO:

INT. - NATO FIELD HEADQUARTERS

GENERAL POWERS
(on phone)
No, but I did read Harry Potter.
(hangs up)

BRITISH GENERAL
What say, mate? Spot him yet?

GENERAL POWERS
Not a trace.
(looks at watch)
Less than a minute before midnight.
I'm afraid the Internet is as good
as dead.

OTHER GENERALS
Morte! Morir! Perdu!

PHONE rings. POWERS picks up.

GENERAL POWERS
Yes, Mr. President. It is my sad
duty to report, mission unaccomplished.

CUT TO:

CYBERSPACE

The COMPUTER BUGS flash back together.

ELVIN
Any luck?

GLITCH
Zip.

MAJOR DEFECT

(looks at watch)

I believe we have run out of time to maneuver.

VI

Dear me. Soon that surge is gonna fry our bytes.

CUT TO:

INT. - MEMKO'S CONTROL CENTER

The CLOCK moves within minutes of 12. Greatly increased electronic activity - lights flashing, various apparatuses clanking away, some smoking, an occasional stray electrical bolt. DIAL labeled "VOLTAGE" continues to rise toward its red area.

GENERAL MEMKO

(arm in the air, ready to lower it)

Enough volts yet? It is almost the ides of May!

LIEUTENANT LACKO

Nyet. Soon.

(big noise and flash)

Maybe too much volts.

CUT TO:

PRODIGIOUS ELECTRICAL APPARATUS

Plenty of apparent trouble.

CUT TO:

GENERAL MEMKO

May the new Soviet Union rise from the rubble of the Internet!

CUT TO:

TELEVISION SCREEN - PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT

It is my sad duty to report that, with only minutes to go before the mad general's deadline, NATO forces have failed to locate his command center. And we have no news of Elvin, the computer bug, who has become, I'm afraid, the last, best hope of the Internet. At this time, I suggest you stop surfing the Web and turn off your computers. I wish you the best. I'm being told it's time to head for the safety of the Presidential bunker.

(turns and hurries off)

CUT TO:

INT. - OFFICE

SURFER

(to another surfer)

Sign off! Sign off!

CUT TO:

EXECUTIVE points to computer.

EXECUTIVE

(frantically, to computer operator)

Pull the plug!

CUT TO:

INT. - NATO FIELD COMMAND

GENERAL POWERS

Secure all computers!

COMMUNICATIONS

How?

GENERAL POWERS

How should I know? I'm only a general,
not a techie.

CUT TO:

INT. KAREN'S HOUSE

KAREN and NANCY are sitting before a computer that's turned off.

KAREN

I never realized how much I miss
being online.

NANCY

Let's just hope Jeffrey's bug
saves us!

KAREN

Come on, Elvin!

CUT TO:

INT. - WRIGHT HOME

The entire FAMILY is around the computer.

ED

One more minute and it'll be too late.
I told you he was no good. Sign off.

JEFFREY

(looks up from wristwatch)
He's not back yet. That means he's
still out there, trying.

ED

Forget it, son. The Internet is
history.

PAT
(tearfully)
At least, that means Elvin won't be back.

ED
Good. That much I like.

JEFFREY
(hits computer)
Elvin! Come on!

CUT TO:

CYBERSPACE

FREEZE
(moving stiffly)
The ides of May draws near!

ELVIN
And still no surge. What do you think,
Major?

MAJOR DEFECT
(on cell phone; to Elvin)
It might be a delay tactic, so we let
down our guard.
(hangs up)
I have just received news that the humans
have admitted defeat.

ELVIN
Then victory ...
(swallows hard)
... is up to us. We have to assume the
surge will be on its way through the Net
any second now.

MAJOR
Then we must prepare for the worst.

ELVIN
I'm sorry everybody. I got you into
this.

GLITCH

That's true, to an extent.

ANGELVIRUS

I still believe in you, Elvin.

ELVIN

Thanks, Angelvirus. I have it.

MAJOR DEFECT

Speak your peace.

ELVIN

If we can somehow survive the surge -

FREEZE

- That's a very big "if."

MAJOR DEFECT

(to Freeze)

Young man, someday you'll learn that
there's no such thing as a small "if."
Go on, Elvin.

ELVIN

If we can get behind it, we can see
where it came from and -

MAJOR DEFECT

(gets it)

- follow the trail while it's still hot.

VI

If we only live long enough.

MAJOR DEFECT

Courage, boys and girls. When all hope
seems lost, there's only one thing to do.
Sound the bugle and stir the troops
with a rousing tune. Ready?

MUSIC: "IT'S CALLED COURAGE, MY BOY!"

MAJOR DEFECT

(sings)

WHEN YOUR HEART STARTS TO POUND
 AND YOUR KNEES BEGIN TO KNOCK
 AND YOU WANT TO TURN AROUND
 AND RUN, STAND LIKE A ROCK
 AND SING, VICTORY OR DEFEAT
 IS MOSTLY IN YOUR FEET!

NO, NEVER TURN YOUR BACK.
 MOVE FORWARD AND ATTACK!
 WHEN YOU FEEL A LITTLE WEAK
 AND YOU'VE GIVEN UP ALL HOPE
 THAT'S JUST YOUR YELLER STREAK
 AND HERE'S HOW YOU COPE.
 JUST SING...

(motions for them all to join in)

ALL

VICTORY OR DEFEAT
 IS MOSTLY IN YOUR FEET!
 VICTORY OR DEFEAT
 IS MOSTLY IN YOUR FEET!

ALL begin to move forward stealthily.

CUT TO:

INT. - MEMKO'S CONTROL CENTER

GENERAL MEMKO, now having donned sunglasses because of the brilliant electrical flashes from a variety of malfunctions, is counting down the last three seconds. LIEUTENANT LACKO, also wearing sunglasses, listens intently, hand on the lever.

GENERAL MEMKO

... three, two, one, fire!

LIEUTENANT LACKO pulls the lever. The control room vibrates and billows smoke worse than ever. Then there's an ultimate rumble and a blinding release.

GENERAL MEMKO (CONT'D)
(coughing on smoke)
Do we have lunch? I mean, launch?

LIEUTENANT LACKO
(moment of hesitation, as he
examines smoking console and
spinning dials)
I think we do.

GENERAL MEMKO
You're not sure?

LIEUTENANT LACKO
Wait. This one gauge -

GENERAL MEMKO
- Yes?

LIEUTENANT LACKO
It's working.
(stands up; throws arms
into the air!)
Yes, launch! We did it!

GENERAL MEMKO
Oh, I am so happy! Bye-bye, Internet!
Hello, new Soviet Union!

THEY hug each other, as CAMERA jiggle indicates shaky condition
of control room. BOTH react with wide-eyed fear.

CUT TO:

INT. ARMY HELICOPTER OVER MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN

PILOT
(points to mountaintop with electrical
flashes shooting up out of it)
Look there.

CO-PILOT
Hey, that could be something.

CO-PILOT (CONT'D)
(on radio)
Headquarters, do you read me?

CUT TO:

EXT. NATO FIELD COMMAND

Smoke has begun to rise from the consoles.

GENERAL POWERS
(on phone)
Bomb it! Bomb it! ... I don't care!
We don't have time to be sure what
it is!

OFFICER
It's too late, sir. We just lost our Internet
connection.
(points to the smoking computers)

GENERAL POWERS
Try to reconnect!

OFFICER
To what, sir? I think it's D-Day for the
Internet, sir.

GENERAL POWERS
D-Day? We won that one. What do you mean?

OFFICER
"D," as in "down," sir.
(becomes weepy)
Down forever.

GENERAL POWERS
How do you know?

OFFICER
(clicks mouse)
My mouse, sir - it's becoming useless.

CUT TO:

CYBERSPACE

The COMPUTER BUGS tremble, as hurtling toward them are electrical flashes and deafening rumbles.

FREEZE

Here it comes.

TROJAN HORSE

Let's get out of here.

GLITCH

Where to?

CRASH

There's no place to hide.

MAJOR DEFECT

Courage! I will tolerate no
cowardice in the face of the surge.
Prepare to do your worst!

ELVIN

It's our only hope.

MAJOR DEFECT

Remember, victory or defeat is mostly
in your feet!

(starts to get jitters
in his legs)

CUT TO:

REVERSE - THE SURGE

We get our first look at the monster surge, personified as VOLTAN. HE'S a muscular warrior in armor, with flashing eyes and lightning bolts in both hands. Behind him, are his SHOCK TROOPS, with shields and lightning bolts for swords.

CUT TO:

REVERSE - THE BUGS

VI

Now, that's what I call a shocking sight.

MAJOR DEFECT

(raises arm)

Charge!

FREEZE

(points to surge)

And a mighty big charge.

ANGELVIRUS

What can we do, Elvin!

ELVIN

(swallows hard)

Like the major said, attack!

(raises arm)

Forward!

INFECTIOUS

You mean, duck.

The awful surge, named VOLTAN, is upon them.

VOLTAN

Viruses, worms, defects of all kinds -
hear me! I am called Voltan. Voltan, The
Invincible. The greatest surge in the
history of the Internet. And these are
my shock troops - an army no surge protector
can stop. You, who are about to die, we
salute you!

ELVIN

(to the other bugs)

Toast now or toast later!

(points forward)

Attack!

MAJOR DEFECT
The battle is joined!

The combat ignites. The BUGS fly at the enemy and do everything they can to penetrate their armor. THEY jump at them, slip behind shields, dive into cracks, and sting them like bees. VOLTAN and his SHOCK TROOPS fend them off with their shields, while they hurl electric bolts at them, stun them, knock them for loops, and burn their very flesh.

MAJOR DEFECT
Ah, the heat of battle! Glory road!

FREEZE
I'm getting blisters.

CUT TO:

INT. - MEMKO'S CONTROL ROOM

Bombs rock it.

GENERAL MEMKO
(watching TV)
What is the delay? The surge should
already be hot news worldwide!

LIEUTENANT LACKO
Maybe electricity travels slower than
we thought.

One explosion after another. The control room quakes again.

GENERAL MEMKO
Do you think maybe it backfired?

LIEUTENANT LACKO
Impossible! That little I know!
(points up)
Sounds like bombs, general.

LIEUTENANT LACKO pushes a button. A screen reveals planes flying overhead, dropping flights of bombs on the mountain.

LIEUTENANT LACKO
We have been discovered.

GENERAL MEMKO
How is that possible? I am shocked!
Close the big tin roof immediately.

LIEUTENANT LACKO
Yes, general.

GENERAL MEMKO
Now, we watch the bombs bounce off, eh?

CUT TO:

EXT. - MOUNTAIN AND PLANES

The planes continue to drop bombs and fire rockets at the mountain. Suddenly, not much happens.

PILOT
Look, the bombs are starting to bounce off.

SECOND PILOT
Never saw a mountain that hard.

CUT TO:

SOLDIERS IN THE FIELD

Mix of RUSSIAN and AMERICAN troops, observing the ineffectual battering the planes are giving the mountain.

AMERICAN OFFICER
Are all the mountains in Georgia that tough?

RUSSIAN OFFICER
I don't know. I'm from Leningrad.

CUT TO:

CYBERSPACE - THE BATTLE

The battle still rages but the bugs are pretty much battered.

VOLTAN
 (lightning bolt held high)
 Fry! Die!
 (looks at wristwatch)
 Enough! We're behind schedule.
 Onward!

VOLTAN motions for his SHOCK TROOPS to follow him. THEY flash and rumble on down the Internet.

The BUGS are all lying about, in smoky defeat. MAJOR DEFECT takes out his white handkerchief.

MAJOR DEFECT
 (to Elvin)
 I'm afraid we have not prevailed.

ELVIN
 (eyeing white hanky)
 You're not admitting defeat, are you?

MAJOR DEFECT
 Never!
 (fans himself with it)
 Just attemptin' to cool down.

FREEZE moans.

ELVIN
 Are you wounded?

FREEZE
 Just one big blister!

VI
 Oh, my achin' bytes. I'm singed
 all over myself.

ELVIN
 I'm burned out, too. But just think!
 We did it! We survived.

MAJOR DEFECT

Yes, the enemy has moved on, and
left the field littered with the wounded.

ELVIN

(gets up with effort)
Quick! There's not a moment to lose.

INFECTIOUS

Quick? I can hardly move.

ELVIN

I know how you feel. But we got
behind the surge.

GLITCH

The hard way.

ELVIN

But we did it!
(points to smoke in direction
where surge came from)
Look. The smoky trail. Let's follow
it to the source!

MAJOR DEFECT

(struggles to his feet)
When all seems lost, attack! Forward,
troops, while the trail is still hot!

ALL the bugs get back onto their feet, with plentiful groans, and
head in the direction the surge came from.

CUT TO:

INT. - GENERAL MEMKO'S CONTROL ROOM

GENERAL MEMKO

(having a fit)
I do not understand what the delay
can possibly be!

LIEUTENANT LACKO
Maybe big surge is like elephant.
Needs time to get up to speed.

GENERAL MEMKO
Call my electrician!

Another bomb lands and shakes the control room.

CUT TO:

CYBERSPACE

The BUGS are now moving at great speed.

ELVIN
I think we're getting warm.

GLITCH
(wiping sweat)
You can say that again.

REVERSE - RED GLOW

ELVIN
Look up ahead. A firewire port.
That's got to be a connection to
Memko's computer.

MAJOR DEFECT
He's right. Everything in front of
enemy lines is wiped out.

ELVIN
Come on! Let's check out his defenses!

TROJAN HORSE
There's a firewall.

ELVIN
And, TJ, you're just the one to get
us past it. Get behind Trojan Horse.

The BUGS line up behind Trojan Horse and begin to advance.

MAJOR DEFECT

Onward ever! Backward, never!

TROJAN HORSE

(turns to advise others)

We're in luck. His anti-virus program
isn't set for automatic updates.

CRASH

That means -

ELVIN

- we found the vulnerability we've been
looking for.

MAJOR DEFECT

Invade that computer!

ALL vanish into the red glow.

INT. - THE COMPUTER

The usual chips, connections, and drives.

ANGELVIRUS

What do we do now, Elvin?

VI

This is one old mother, but big.

MAJOR DEFECT

We must split into small units to cover
the terrain effectively.

ELVIN

You're right, Major. Look...

(to Glitch and Freeze)

... you two head for the processor.

(to Infectious and Major Defect)

The two of you go for the hard drive.

(to VI and Crash)

You two take on the motherboard, while
Angelvirus and I attack the software?

MAJOR DEFECT

Move out! Search and destroy!

The BUGS head out in different directions.

CUT TO:

INT. - LIVE ACTION MONTAGE - COMPUTERS - LOST INTERNET CONNECTIONS

MONTAGE of people at computers in various locations as the destructive capacities of the surge begins to be felt worldwide. Dismay, fear.

CUT TO:

INT. - NATO FIELD COMMAND

Equipment is melting down everywhere. Internet connections are going down all over.

GENERAL POWERS

Abject defeat - the first of my otherwise distinguished career.

A JAPANESE GENERAL takes out his sword and points it at his stomach.

JAPANESE GENERAL

I have lost my honor.

GENERAL POWERS

Don't do that. It causes indigestion.

CUT TO:

GUEST SHOT - BILL GATES

Guest tech celebrity or two, such as BILL GATES and/or STEVE JOBS, commenting on TV.

BILL GATES

I never thought Internet Explorer would meet such a terrible, terrible fate.

STEVE JOBS

So much for the latest upgrade to
Apple's browser.

CUT TO:

INT. - GENERAL MEMKO'S CONTROL ROOM

HE and LACKO are witnessing the worldwide loss of Internet
connections on a TV monitor.

LIEUTENANT LACKO

Look, general. Our surge is starting
to be big success.

GENERAL MEMKO

Very big. Such a success even I am
shocked.

INT. - CYBERSPACE - MEMKO'S COMPUTER

ELVIN and ANGELVIRUS, in the software.

ELVIN

So many digits, so little time. Wait!
Look, Angelvirus. The surge program.

He points to program that says, "SURGEMAKER 1.9."

ANGELVIRUS

(looks at watch)

You found it, sweetheart. We can mess it
up in no time.

ELVIN

But be careful. You can't tell where
an anti-virus program could be lurking.

CUT TO:

MEMKO'S CONTROL CENTER.

The computer program in front of LIEUTENANT LACKO freezes. HE

starts clicking his mouse frantically. Another bomb lands on the roof.

GENERAL MEMKO

What's wrong?

LIEUTENANT LACKO

The surge program - it just froze!

GENERAL MEMKO

Froze? Now? After nine beta versions?
How is that possible?

LIEUTENANT LACKO

I don't know. I'll try to reboot.

GENERAL MEMKO

What about the surge in progress?

LIEUTENANT LACKO

No program, no power management.

GENERAL MEMKO

Tell me in plain Russian.

LIEUTENANT

It has run out of juice.

CUT TO:

CYBERSPACE - VOLTAN AND SHOCK TROOPS

VOLTAN and his SHOCK TROOPS begin to writhe in pain and short circuit, as they lose power.

SHOCK TROOP

Master, what's wrong?

VOLTAN

We're powering down! What pain! What
agony! And just when we were on the
verge of victory!

VOLTAN and the SHOCK TROOPS continue short out and finally sink

down into nothing but smoking remains.

CUT TO:

INT. - NATO - FIELD COMMAND

FIRST OFFICER

(moves mouse)

General Powers!

GENERAL POWERS

Don't say a word. I'm too upset.

(hits table)

I never lost a battle in my life!

FIRST OFFICER

Bu, sir, we just got back our Internet connection!

GENERAL POWERS

Back? Don't tell me our bombs finally got through. Get me President Trifle.

CUT TO:

INT. - OFFICES AND HOMES.

People everywhere begin to reestablish their Internet connection. Joy, celebration, champagne bottles popping open.

CUT TO:

INT. - GENERAL MEMKO'S CONTROL STATION

LIEUTENANT LACKO

I cannot relaunch Surgemaker One. The program is down.

GENERAL MEMKO

Down? And the surge?

LIEUTENANT LACKO

Down, too.

GENERAL MEMKO

Down? It had a dying sound. One little word,
and all my noble dreams crash. Oh, down, down,
down - I never knew how sad that word could be.

INT. - GENERAL MEMKO'S COMPUTER.

The BUGS let up a great cheer.

MAJOR DEFECT

(claps Elvin on the back; puts
arm around Angelvirus)

You did it! We have snatched victory from
the jaws of defeat!

BUGS

Three cheers for Elvin and Angelvirus!

ELVIN

We all did it, gang!

MUSIC: "DO SOMETHING GOOD? EGAD!"

BUGS

(sing)

WE DID SOMETHING GOOD!
SOMETHING GOOD? EGAD!
YES, WE SAVED THE INTERNET
BUT NEVER FORGET
IT'S ONLY THE RESULT
OF DOING SOMETHING BAD.
YES, WE SAVED THE INTERNET
BUT LET'S NEVER FORGET
IT'S ONLY THE RESULT
OF DOING SOMETHING BAD!
BAD! BAD! BAD!

CUT TO:

INT - MEMKO'S CONTROL CENTER - EXPLOSION

An explosion rocks the control center with sudden effect.

GENERAL MEMKO

What's happening?

LIEUTENANT LACKO

I think bombs starting to weaken big tin roof. Maybe we evacuate?

GENERAL MEMKO

Lost, lost! All is lost! No more new, improved Soviet Union! No more getting buried in glass casket next to Lenin.

LIEUTENANT LACKO

(to other workers)

And no more time. Abandon the facility!

(to General MEMKO)

Come with me.

GENERAL MEMKO

No, I will die here, die with my dreams.

LIEUTENANT LACKO

Why? We start new dream.

GENERAL MEMKO

New dream? I like that. Explain.

LIEUTENANT MEMKO

You can't beat 'em, join 'em. We become fat capitalists, like everybody else in Russia wants to be.

GENERAL MEMKO

Can we do that?

LIEUTENANT LACKO

(points to Memko's portly belly)

Easy. You already have big head start. And remember: Living well is the best revenge.

GENERAL MEMKO

You're right. We'll start a company. Maybe video games. I'll be the CEO. You can be the head of R and D.

LIEUTENANT LACKO

Anything you say, general. But first things first. We escape, now!

GENERAL MEMKO, LIEUTENANT LACKO, and other STAFF members head for the exits, as the bombs continue to make the structure quake and crumble.

CUT TO:

INT - MEMKO'S COMPUTER

SFX: Explosion. The computer shakes.

FREEZE

It's getting very shaky in here.

MAJOR DEFECT

Sounds as if the humans have finally caught up with us. I propose a victory march - and haste post haste! Back to The Cyberland! The drinks are on me!

ELVIN

Hit the Internet!

The BUGS vanish out of the now cold firewire port and speed off into cyberspace.

CUT TO:

EXT. - THE MOUNTAIN, PLANES

CUT TO:

COCKPIT OF FIGHTER PLANE

PILOT

Report to base. Target finally softening up.

SECOND PILOT

(thumb up)

Let's finish the job.

CUT TO:

INT - NATO FIELD COMMAND

GENERAL POWERS

(hangs up phone; to others)

Good news. The target has just been
penetrated.

FRENCH GENERAL

But what happened to la grand surge?

ENGLISH GENERAL

It died out quite a few moments ago.

(gestures toward active computer screen)

ITALIAN GENERAL

Si, signore. You are, I'm afraid, correct.

GENERAL POWERS

Then we can't take credit for it?

ENGLISH GENERAL

Of course, it would be nice. But fair
play and all that, as we learned on the
fields of Eton.

GENERAL POWERS

It was just a thought.

(puts head down)

Oh, my. Outdone by a force of
computer bugs!

FRENCH GENERAL

Mon dieu!

ENGLISH GENERAL

No entirely agreeable, I'd say.

GENERAL POWERS

But, apparently, unavoidable.

CUT TO:

INT. - WRIGHT DEN

JEFFREY is at the computer. ED, PAT, and ALYSON are gathered around.

JEFFREY

Look, we're back up. See, Google, good as ever.

ALYSON

Yeah!

JEFFREY

Good old Elvin. He did it.

ED

I don't believe it.

JEFFREY

What else, Dad?

ED

OK, OK. About time he earned his keep.

PAT

I hope he's all right.

ED

Don't hope too much.

CUT TO:

TELEVISION SCREEN

NEWSCASTER

Today, the wired world breathed a giant sigh of relief as...

(interrupts self_

... now, we take you live, to a special announcement by the President of the United States.

CUT TO:

PRESIDENT ON TV

PRESIDENT

Ladies and gentlemen, I have just emerged to a bright new day for the Internet. The threat to its very existence is now part of high-tech history, and the villains who perpetrated this assault on the Internet have fled, without a trace, while, thanks to the efforts of NATO forces, including our Russian allies on the ground, their command center has been located and destroyed.

(smiles, tongue in cheek)

I can also tell you that the Internet itself would no longer be here without the help and courage of a group of courageous computer bugs who, at this most challenging time, decided for once in their lives to do something good.

(smiles)

Thank you, Elvin. America and the world salute you and all the other computer bugs who joined you in this noble effort.

CUT TO:

INT. WRIGHT' HOME DAY

The television is on. ED and PAT, listening to the PRESIDENT.

ALYSON

Wow, did you hear that? The President said Elvin's name. He's a hero.

JEFFREY

I told you he did it.

ED

Ah, man. Seems, as that old song goes, "If I didn't have bad luck, I wouldn't have any luck at all."

PAT

And just think, he lives in our computer.

ALYSON
Wow! I am so impressed!

CUT TO:

INT. - THE CYBERLAND BAR & THRILL

The BUGS are celebrating. ELVIN is in the arms of ANGELVIRUS.

ANGELVIRUS
Oh, Elvin, you are my hero.

ELVIN
Thanks, Angelvirus. You're mine, too.

THEY kiss.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM SHOT - KING WORM

KING WORM makes an angry move toward ELVIN and ANGELVIRUS, taking out his derringer. CAMERA pulls back as MAJOR DEFECT steps in and disarms him.

MAJOR DEFECT
I'm afraid this is one of those commendable occasions when the brave soldier who went off to war gets the pretty girl.

CUT TO:

LONG REVERSE SHOT - ELVIN AND ANGELVIRUS

ELVIN and ANGELVIRUS stroll out the door, hand in hand, as KING WORM clenches his fists and suffers in bitter silence.

DISS TO:

INT. - WRIGHT DEN - DAY

ED is on the phone.

ED
Haven't seen a trace of him, thankfully.
(hangs up)
Another reporter who wants to interview
Elvin.

JEFFREY
(examining computer screen)
He'll be back soon. I just know it.

ED
Look on the bright side. Victory
might have cost him his life.

CUT TO:

CYBERSPACE NIGHT

ELVIN and ANGELVIRUS at her doorstep in the moonlight.

ELVIN
I have to make a confession, Angelvirus.

ANGELVIRUS
You can tell me anything, because I love you.

ELVIN
Well, even though we did something
Good, I don't feel nearly as bad as I
Thought I would. It's kind of hard to admit,
but right now I'm actually happier than I've
ever been.

ANGELVIRUS
I forgive you, sweetheart. I'm happier
than ever, too.
(looks at him starry eyed)
I think we made it.

ELVIN
I think so, too.

MUSIC: "ALL THE WAY TO LOVE."

ANGELVIRUS

(sings)

HM, HM, HM,
I MADE IT TO SOMEONE
WHO'S JUST RIGHT FOR ME.

ELVIN

ALL THE WAY TO SOMEONE
WHO'S JUST RIGHT FOR ME.

ELVIN & ANGELVIRUS

(sing)

HM-HM, HM-HM,
WE MADE IT TO LOVE.
ALL THE WAY TO LOVE -
MADE IT HIGH AS THE STARS ABOVE,
ALL THE WAY TO LOVE!

NOW WE CAN SEE AHEAD
TO OUR OWN ENCHANTED LAND,
WHERE WE'LL BE LIVING,
AS WE GO ON HAND IN HAND.

'CAUSE WE MADE IT TO LOVE,
ALL THE WAY TO LOVE -
MADE IT HIGH AS THE STARS ABOVE,
ALL THE WAY TO LOVE!

ELVIN

I'm so crazy about you, Angelvirus.
But I should say goodnight now.
I'm due back home.

ANGELVIRUS

I know. Will I see you tomorrow?

ELVIN

Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow.

ANGELVIRUS

Oh, you say the sweetest things.
Till then, darling.

One last kiss and ELVIN puts on his helmet and flashes off into the distance.

CUT TO:

INT. - WRIGHT DEN - NIGHT

JEFFREY is still at the computer. PAT enters.

PAT

Come on, Jeffrey. Time to go to bed.
You have school tomorrow. And he
may not come back tonight.

JEFFREY

In a little while, Mom.

DISS TO:

LATER.

JEFFREY is getting really tired and finally reaches to turn off
the computer.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP: COMPUTER SCREEN

ELVIN pops on, taking off his helmet.

ELVIN

I'm back!

JEFFREY

Hey, welcome home, Elvin. Are you OK?

ELVIN

Just a few burn marks. That was one
ugly surge.

JEFFREY

I'll bet. But you did it.

ELVIN

Don't embarrass me.

JEFFREY

But you're a hero. Even the President
said so, right on television.

ELVIN

I know. What can I say? I'll do my best
to live it down.

JEFFREY

I'm sure you will. But not here, OK?

CUT TO:

INT - TELEVISION NEWSCAST - ELVIN

Guest shot by the same or another famous NEWSCASTER. JEFFRY is
sitting on a nearby chair, with his computer on the NEWSCASTER'S
desk. ELVIN is on the screen.

NEWSCASTER

Tell me, how does it feel to have a computer
bug who's a hero?

JEFFREY

It's kind of fun.

NEWSCASTER

And, Elvin, how do you feel about your
new status as a superhero?

ELVIN

Well, to tell you the truth, I hope to
make up for it.

CUT TO:

CLOSE HOST - ALBERT

He is in front of his TV.

ALBERT

(throws hands in air)

All I want to know is, why did he have
to get the computer bug?

DISS TO:

INT. - KAREN'S ROOM

She is at the computer, typing Jeffrey an e-mail, which begins:
"Dear Jeffrey, You are my hero forever. And, please, can I meet
Elvin? All my love, KAREN." She hits "SEND."

CUT TO:

INT. - WRIGHT DEN

JEFFREY is at his computer. KAREN's email arrives. HE clicks it
open and reads it.

JEFFREY

Wow, man, is life perfect or what?
(smacks computer with joy)
Elvin, she loves me!

ELVIN appears on screen.

ELVIN

Take it easy, will ya? Besides, I've
had enough g-, g-, good news.

JEFFREY

Sorry.
(shows him email)
But I couldn't have done it without
you.

ELVIN

Then you'll keep me and the computer?

JEFFREY

Hey, if you're even halfway good, I'll
even take you with me when I go to
college.

ELVIN

Wow, what luck! A permanent home,
even in a throwaway society!

MUSIC (REPRISE, WITH VARIATION): "ELVIN, THE COMPUTER BUG."

ELVIN

(sings)

I'D ALWAYS BE GOOD,
IF ONLY I COULD.
THE TROUBLE IS,
I'M NOT THAT KIND OF WHIZ.
I'M ELVIN, THE COMPUTER BUG!
ELVIN, THE COMPUTER BUG!
I'M CUTE ENOUGH TO HUG
AND BAD ENOUGH TO SLUG.
BUT WHEN I SAY I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND.
IT'S NOT ALL PRETEND
(winks)
NO, NO, IT'S NOT ALL PRETEND
WHEN I SAY I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND!

FADE OUT:

THE END