



Back to the Future

Example of work by Khalid
Abubaker (IPM 2002)

“Your homework is now long overdue and Mr Gesthuizen is trying to page you”

Khalid had upgraded his portacomp to the latest version so it now spoke with the husky voice of Arnold. He tried to tuck his portacomp deeper into his school bag but it was hard to ignore the advice.

Every Westall student used his or her portacomp to interface with the master system. Since students could now work online, there was no physical school. Students could interface when and where they pleased. Khalid looked around the noisy background of the McClayton Cyber cafe and reluctantly decided to open a voice link to his tutor Mr Gesthuizen.

Schoolteachers had just about disappeared and were now employed by McMicrosoft as online tutors. After handing in his homework, Khalid thought it best to start heading home since his portable puppy was getting hungry and he had left his charger at home.

While walking outside the Cyber café to his magnetic board, Khalid noticed that his shoes were blinking on and off. He had forgotten his exercise for the day. So instead of taking his magnetic board home, he decided to walk. Since he was walking home he knew that his mother would worry because he would be running late.

Just before he was about to send her an e-mail he decided to go against it because his mother only checks her e-mail once a day, so he gave her a holographic call using his mobile.

Mid-way through his walk Khalid wanted some company; he decided to let his digital puppy Scooby out of its digital self and into its holographic form.

Now that his pet puppy was yelping and sniffing around him, Khalid put on his headphones and logged into his favourite on-line radio station where his friend Xander was going to give a report about human history, today's report was particularly about the computer boom that occurred some time between 1990 and 2020 which is more than 80 years ago now.



At around sunrise Khalid got home, he was later than he thought he would be. He only had a few hours till his mom would make him go to bed. It may seem too early to go to bed but, Khalid starts his Space 1.0.1 class just after sunset.

After going through the scanners, Khalid was finally home. He realised his mother and father were not home from work yet.

Khalid decided to start dinner, he prompted Willow, their home computer to start preparing his favourite meal for dinner.

Khalid decided to take a shower and change his outer skins into his inner skins. Thinking about changing his skins, Khalid remembered that it was his mother's birthday in five lunar days. So he prompted Willow to order a present for his mother to arrive on her birthday.

On his way to the bathroom, Khalid had to duck and weave out of his parent's way as they work through their virtual offices. Once in the bathroom, Khalid chose to wash manually. He decided on a tropical waterfall as his theme while taking his shower. After showering, Khalid got into his inner skin. Since his parents were still working, he decided to have dinner on his own.

By the time he got to the kitchen, Willow had adjusted his chair and table high to suit Khalid's settings. After eating his dinner, Khalid inserted his dirty plates, forks and spoons into a washer slots where Willow could wash and re-use the plates and cutlery.

As Khalid sat down to chat with his friend Je in Ukraine, his portacomp informed him that a new version of Vortex chat was available, however, it would cost him 5 cyber dollars. After dialling Vortex on his mobile, Khalid's mobile automatically sent a scanned image of his thumb print to his bank account, from there, Vortex sent the upgrade to Khalid and deducted 5 cyber dollars from his account.

After upgrading, Khalid tried contacting Je, unfortunately she did not answer. Khalid decided to leave Je a holographic message. It was time for Khalid to go to his Pod and sleep, he realised that Scooby did not follow him home!

After tracking Scooby's digital tag, Khalid re-called Scooby back into its digital form where Khalid stored it into his portacomp. Since Scooby had not eaten anything all day, Khalid decided to re-charge Scooby along with his portacomp. Just as Khalid was heading for his Pod he received a holographic call from his mom, she was still at work, his mom was telling him to go to

his Pod and sleep, and the sun had already risen!

Once in his Pod room, Khalid could not decide the kind of dream he wanted. After some thought, he decided to go with a Medieval theme. As Khalid slept, he woke up as a Knight in a far away castle.

The End