Good morning. My name is Eidenis, and today I’m going to predict what would happen if one day every computer in the world suddenly stopped working.

Some people call the transistor “the greatest invention in the modern world”, and I can agree. It was invented in 1947 by American physicists John Bardeen, Walter Brattain, and William Shockley, and it’s now the foundation of modern electronics. Without it, we wouldn’t be able to make calculations, needed for modern research, data processing and communications. So, if the network of computers suddenly broke for some reason, it would certainly be a technological disaster.

For a start, please raise your hand, if you have ever chatted online to a person that lives abroad. Now look around. As you can see, many of us have communicated with a person possibly from thousands of kilometers away. It’s possible only because of modern computers and smartphones. For example, if you don’t want to pay more than 40€ just for sending a letter, the delivery time from Australia to Lithuania is close to 11 days (and you would still pay 8€). Meanwhile, with a reliable internet connection you can receive messages from anywhere in the world in milliseconds. As you can see, it’s ~950’000 times faster and a lot cheaper. So, without computers, communications would be much slower.

Do you know what also depends on a network of computers? Bank systems. Nowadays money transactions are often called safe and legal only if they're done via electronic transfers. Imagine what would happen, if something, like a magnetic storm, interfered with those modern machines, which count everyone's balances in banks. It wouldn't take much - if only a few bytes changed, the million, which you had in your account yesterday, would turn to 10€ or just disappear. This would lead to poverty of individual people, bankrupts of companies and possibly whole countries. The world would turn into chaos.

Hospitals also rely on modern technologies. Computer-controlled robot hands, digital databases, modern blood composition analysis – all those technologies and many more help to cure patients quicker. Without them, many sick people could die from simple illnesses.

Now, I want to end my speech with a relatively positive thought. Doctor Jim Taylor, a psychologist from the University of San Francisco, says that *children, who spent more time reading, developed their focus, imagination and memory more, while children, who spent more time on the internet and watching TV, were unable to focus, imagine and memorize as much.* Also, we all know about the damage that the use of computers does to eyesight, hearing, posture… Perhaps the loss of technologies wouldn’t be so bad after all?