Conditionals review

Technical English for IN/IT

There are four types of conditionals (or "if" sentences) in English. Each type expresses a different degree of probability, from a certain fact to an impossibility. The degree of likelihood is expressed through the verb tense selected.

For a **real** or **factual** situation: if/when + present | present	*If* you **study** hard, you **earn** better results. Volatile memory **loses** data *when* the power **is** off.
For a **probable** situation: if + present | modal + will +infinitive	*If* you **study** hard, you **will earn** better results. We **may miss** our deadline *if* we **do not hurry**.
For an **improbable** situation: if + past | past modal + would +infinitive	*If* you **studied** hard, you **would earn** better results. We **would have** more powerful computers *if* quantum computing technologies **were** mature.
For an **unreal** or **impossible** situation: if + past perfect | past modal +would + have + participle	*If* you **had studied** hard, you **would have earned** better results. He **might have helped** solve the problem *if* he **had known** about it.

Practice: Complete the sentences below with an appropriate phrase.

1. When a DVD gets scratched, *it may not work properly / the data can not be read correctly*

2. If the hard drive were upgraded to an SSD, **then** *it would work faster and more efficiently*

3. Hackers will breach our system if *we don´t install/enforce correct security policies/protect our system well enough*.

4. If the transistor had never been invented, *we would not have had the computer and technology that we have today*.

5. **Non-volatile memory** *retains data* when the machine is powered down.

6. If the code has an infinite loop, *it will continue without stopping*.

7. If my computer were attacked by ransomware, *I would/could/should have to consider very carefully what to do about it*.

8. Working in IT can be rewarding if *you feel part of a strong team / enjoy your job / you see clearly what you have achieved.*

9. If the insulation covering an electrical wire is damaged, *it may be dangerous and cause a loss of power.*

10. If I hadn't decided to attend OTH Regensburg, *I would/could have + pp*.