SORSE

When Spreadsheets Attack! (and other maths disasters.)

Matt Parker

In October 2020 the UK government lost thousands of COVID test results because they hit the limit of the maximum number of rows in an Excel file. This is but one of many, many mistakes made all around the world because of spreadsheet abuse. In 2012 the State Office of Education in Utah miscalculated its budget to the tune of $25 million because of what State Superintendent Larry Shumway called 'a faulty reference' in a spreadsheet. In 2011 the village of West Baraboo in Wisconsin miscalculated how much their borrowing would cost by $400,000 because a range being summed missed one important cell.

Matt Parker is a long-time spreadsheet fan. His stand-up routine about spreadsheets has over 2.5 million views on YouTube. But he has also investigated the incredible ways they can go wrong for his best-selling book Humble Pi. In this session Matt will look at some of the top #VALUE! greatest spreadsheet mistakes as well as other times mishandling data and maths has led to disaster.

Come armed with your own spreadsheet horror stories to share!

See Matt's hilarious work on YouTube.

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