

I laughed. I cried. I went to the Microsoft Theater Troupe's production of "_____", the musical.



Bedlam

If I ever leave Microsoft, the thing I'll miss the most is _____.



Bedlam

_____ is SUPER exciting!!



Bedlam

The latest acquisition we're paying billions for has innovative technology to handle _____.



Bedlam

Microsoft put a computer in every home and on every desk but all I got out of it was _____.



Bedlam

I couldn't work on _____, because the Exchange server was down.



Bedlam

Main Campus, born and raised, _____ is how I spend most of my days.



Bedlam

What's the only thing worse than running out of alcohol at a ship party?



Bedlam

_____ is the new Vista.



Bedlam

A new hire's first week here is usually spent on _____.



Bedlam

Back when SteveB was in charge, we never had to deal with _____!



Bedlam

I'm proud to say that I work with someone who is the world's foremost expert on _____.



Bedlam

It's best to wait until the review model is locked before spending time on _____.



Bedlam

I'm on mail retention because I was involved in _____.



Bedlam

What never fails to liven up the ship party?



Bedlam

All right, team. We're ready to kick off our tented project - codename: _____.



That epic ship party just wouldn't have been the same without _____.



In my last review I was told I needed to do more _____.



The damned start button



Bedlam

Does this need any explanation?

Free towels, drenched
in the ass sweat of
commuting cyclists



Bedlam

Said towels were once cut as part of cost-cutting, resulting in outcry from employees who never used them.

Watching a VP blow-dry
his executive man-junk
in the Pro Club locker
room



Bedlam

In the Pro Club in Redmond, men will often be seen using hair dryers to... hasten the drying process.

TO THE CLOUD!!!



Bedlam

Tagline from an ad campaign we ran in 2010.

Trust-fucking-worthy
Computing



Bedlam

Gotta love corporate terminology.

BEDLAM DL3



Bedlam

The very first "reply all" storm that took down all the Exchange servers in the 90s.

Hot tubs at the ship
party



Bedlam

Occasionally related to the other card about exposing too much skin at ship parties.

Time to reorg!



Bedlam

It's been a few months since the last one, why not?

Quitting the company
to spend more time
with your family
^H^H^H^H^H pro
sports team



Bedlam

At least it's better than working on "special projects"

Metro ^H^H^H^H^H



Bedlam

^H is the ASCII escape character for backspace.

A ship-it award for a
product you didn't work
on



Bedlam

You feel a little guilty... but you still put it on your tombstone anyway.

The Ribbon



Bedlam

The once-controversial change in Office's UI starting with Office 2007.

The Longhorn reset



Bedlam

One of the many things that went wrong, leading up to Windows Vista.

Red ring of death



Bedlam

An infamous quality problem that happened with Xbox 360 that cost us a lot o' moolah.

Windows Mobile



Bedlam

Yet another product we were ahead of the game on and then lost our lead.

Being a softie



In more ways than one.

Sending the new hires
to the swimming pool at
Building 7



*There is no Building 7 due to a totally
normal set of circumstances, but legend
has sprung up over the years.*

The realization that all
of the Information we
put At Your Fingertips is
actually porn



*Bill's Comdex speech in 1990, laying out
his vision for personal computing for the
next decade.*

A sudden painful
realization that one
has neither passion nor
potential



*"Your Potential. Our Passion" - from 2006
to 2011*

Postponing bitlocker for
five years, one day at a
time



You can't MAKE me encrypt it, MSIT!

A slide full of Market-
ecture



*It's just as pretty as when engineers try to
explain how to do marketing.*

A 15 year old badge
photo



*Fighting for the right to pretend you still
looked like you do on your first badge
photo, when you were a baby.*

Peaking at 64



*It's generally considered acceptable to
'max out' in your career at level 64, but
not earlier.*

A computer on every
desk and in every home



*Nailed it. Too bad about missing out on
those pockets... we'll get there in v3.*

My very own window
office



*Giving you an unobstructed view of the
beautiful gray block known as the Seattle
sky.*

A sad, crumbling tower
built out of patent cubes



*Too bad they don't give out patent cubes.
More bears around the halls would be fun.*

That tester who
interviews for every job
available just to get out



*Everyone knows the correct answer to
"What's your dream job?" is "this one!"*

"Good" attrition



When an underperformer leaves.

A QR code on the board
in the kitchen, leading to
a colleague's uninspired
Windows Phone app



*Corkboard in the kitchens in Redmond are
full of people self-promoting their apps.*

Buying Minecraft just to
own the trademark for
"Creeper"



*Jeepers, creepers, how about them 2.5
billion dolla-dolla bills y'all?*

Putting .NET in every
product name



See also: One, Azure, Direct, Windows, 365...

s+



Shorthand for "Schedule Plus", a separate calendaring product that later became part of Outlook.

Putting razor blades in
the admin's candy dish



Do I really need to explain this one? It never happens. It's a JOKE, people.

Waiting until the review
model is locked



Because it's open season on being a no-op again once that happens.

Feeling guilty about
not contributing to the
giving campaign



Every October there's a lot of pleading.

Practicing saying
"There is no stack rank
anymore" in front of a
mirror



Say it three times in order to burn it in.

Burning every bridge
possible with your good-
bye mail



Water can still flow under a bridge that's burned, right?

An ambiguous gender
GAL photo



It's useful to use the right pronoun.

People who send
meeting requests for
their OOFs



And clutter up everyone else's calendars on their phones.

A tented project



"Secret" - aka you have to be "in the tent" to know the secret.

Free soda



Or free pop.

A female engineering
executive



Also known as 'a unicorn'.

Working at Contoso



"Contoso" is one of the names of the fake companies we use in demos.

Being OOF



Technically, "Out Of Facilities". Also, "OOO" doesn't exactly roll off the tongue.

Stack ranking



Also known as 'calibration', the process of evaluating people for performance reviews.

Praying to the video
conference call gods



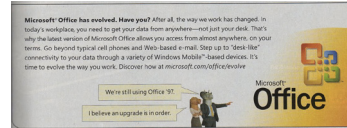
The gods are angry sometimes.

A RIF



Reduction In Force - aka layoff.

Calling our customers
dinosaurs



An ad campaign we ran for Office in 2005.

Microsoft Bob



A 1995 release intended to provide a more user-friendly interface to Windows. It also birthed Comic Sans.

A furtive midnight raid
of the admin's closet for
free company swag



Free swag is second only in popularity to free pop.

Winning Buzzword
Bingo at the company
meeting



True story: I lost in '98 because 'Stain on dress' was in the middle of my card.

Microspeak



A term for the lingo around the company, the funny way we phrase things.

Using morale budget for
overtime dinners



During deathmarches to RTM, dinners were sometimes served to encourage people to stay late.

Bailing Apple out... only
to regret that years later



150 million dollars in 1997... look it up, whippersnapper.

Office assistant Rocky
the dog dragging its
butt across your monitor



The most infamous Office Assistant being, of course, Clippy. Also, look up bug #Office9.199995.

The Microsoft Art
Committee



The people who choose the artwork that shows up around campus buildings in the Puget Sound area.

Falling asleep on the
9,000th word of a
SteveSi blog



Sinofsky was well known for his verbosity and his internal blog where he would write, and write, and write.

teaching steveb to
capitalize



he was infamous for not using much punctuation or capitalization in his personal emails

Microkia



It's like chocolate and peanut butter.

Intentionally getting
deposed to get the extra
email storage from
being on retention



Remember when our mailbox quotas were measured in MB, not GB?

**Trolling people on
internal DLs**



Bedlam

*When you just can't resist making
someone angry...*

Hijacking an exec's 888



Bedlam

*"Triple eights" are special shuttles execs
can reserve - almost as fun as having your
own 777.*

**Slamming your skip-
level in the annual
company poll**



Bedlam

*Your skip is your grandmanager, aka your
manager's manager.*

**BCCing huge aliases with
shameless plugs for a
personal project**



Bedlam

Particularly during hackathon times.

**Getting through a
release cycle without
killing any coworkers**



Bedlam

What ship-it awards are really all about.

**Sending a meeting
request to a large DL**



Bedlam

*And releasing the rage of a thousand
employees.*

Reinventing productivity



Bedlam

Or is it 'reimagining'?

**Welcoming our new
Combined Engineering
overlords**



Bedlam

CE what I did there?

**Righteous indignation
at having to pay for
healthcare, like poor
people**



Bedlam

*Our awesome insurance used to let us live
like Kings. Now we've been downgraded!*

Yet another deathmarch



Bedlam

*Sometimes the RTM plane doesn't come in
for a very smooth landing.*

Forcing functions



Bedlam

They're a force to reckon with.

**Engaging in pointless
debates on litebulb**



Bedlam

*'litebulb' is an internal DL full of people
engaging in pointless debates. Join the
fray!*

**Missing the salad bar
sneeze guard**



Bedlam

*Eurest wasn't able to hire human guards
for this job, so they went with sheets of
clear plastic instead.*

**Exposing too much skin
at the ship party**



Bedlam

*HR would like me to clarify that this
NEVER actually happened. So... consider
that clarified.*

**Wearing the sticker of
shame**



Bedlam

*When you forget your badge, and
Reception prints out a sticker with your
name and GAL photo on it.*

Subsisting purely on food scammed from leftover catering



Bedlam

For big meetings in Redmond, the catered food will sometimes be left outside the room. Tasty, tempting food.

Starting every sentence with “So...”



Bedlam

So, people actually do this, it turns out.

Paying billions for everyone’s second-favorite social network



Bedlam

Another way to think of it is seven and a half Minecrafts.

Getting dumped by your work spouse



Bedlam

Not the kernel kind of dump.

That one VP who always wears shorts regardless of the weather



Bedlam

Because what we all need to see is more hair.

An **actually** insightful article on MSW



Bedlam

No offense, MSW peeps. But sometimes there is the occasional puff piece.

Design studio hipsters



Bedlam

Lots of black turtlenecks and hornrimmed glasses.

Underwater stock options



Bedlam

I made \$43 selling mine!

Developers, developers, developers!



Bedlam

SteveB's infamous chant.

That one guy who actually grew up in the Seattle area



Bedlam

*Nobody's actually **from** around here.*

Execs in drag



Bedlam

Certain execs were well known for dressing up at ship parties to entertain the troops.

Layoff meeting selfies



Bedlam

The ultimate in turning lemons into lemonade. Although the lemonade doesn't really taste that sweet.

An exec parking his Ferrari in a handicapped spot



Bedlam

*One of his **twelve** ferraris.*

That one guy who keeps scheduling all-day meetings



Bedlam

Usually a sign that he doesn't have much else to do.