Bright Shining Future

* Self-Driving Cars
* Robot Assistants
* Touch Screen Everything

Now

* Airport Bathrooms
  + Pool of liquid soap under the dispenser
  + Autoflushers
  + Hand dryers; do you want bathroom air to be driven by high-pressure air currents onto the hands that you just washed?
* Customer Service Voice Recognition Systems
  + Try to solve your problem by giving you an additional problem to navigate through.
  + People don’t have perfect enunciation all the time; that’s only happens on Star Trek.
  + Give them your account number/confirmation number, and hope it doesn’t have to distinguish between a T, a D and a 3.
* Self-Checkout lanes
  + Unless checking out one specific item, I’ve never been able to checkout without the self-checkout manager intervening.
  + Before: I could just put my stuff on a conveyor belt; Now: Not only do I have to checkout, I have to think about how I want my items bagged without disturbing the scale that seems to think I’m planning to rob the place blind just because my soup cans need to be double-bagged.

So, knowing what we have to deal with today in terms of automation, do you expect things to get better?

Our \_\_\_\_ speaker today is Toastmaster Antonio Rodriguez, who doesn’t have a project to go by today, so he’s winging it, as he tends to do.

The title of his speech is “Our Dismal Computerized Future”. Please help me welcome Toastmaster Antonio Rodriguez.