

## The Best 50 of Murphy's Law

**You can never tell which way the train went by looking at the track.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Logic is a systematic method of coming to the wrong conclusion with confidence.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Whenever a system becomes completely defined, some damn fool discovers something which either abolishes the system or expands it beyond recognition.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Technology is dominated by those who manage what they do not understand.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**If builders built buildings the way programmers wrote programs, then the first woodpecker that came along would destroy civilization.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The opulence of the front office decor varies inversely with the fundamental solvency of the firm.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The attention span of a computer is only as long as its electrical cord.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**An expert is one who knows more and more about less and less until he knows absolutely everything about nothing.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Tell a man there are 300 billion stars in the universe and he'll believe you. Tell him a bench has wet paint on it and he'll have to touch to be sure.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**All great discoveries are made by mistake.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Always draw your curves, then plot your reading.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Nothing ever gets built on schedule or within budget.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**All's well that ends.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**A meeting is an event at which the minutes are kept and the hours are lost.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The first myth of management is that it exists.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**A failure will not appear till a unit has passed final inspection.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**New systems generate new problems.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**To err is human, but to really foul things up requires a computer.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**We don't know one millionth of one percent about anything.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Any given program, when running, is obsolete.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**A computer makes as many mistakes in two seconds as 20 men working 20 years make.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The faster a computer is, the faster it will reach a crashed state.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Nothing motivates a man more than to see his boss putting in an honest day's work.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Some people manage by the book, even though they don't know who wrote the book or even what book.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The primary function of the design engineer is to make things difficult for the fabricator and impossible for the serviceman.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**To spot the expert, pick the one who predicts the job will take the longest and cost the most.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**After all is said and done, a hell of a lot more is said than done.**

**Any circuit design must contain at least one part which is obsolete, two parts which are unobtainable and three parts which are still under development.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**A complex system that works is invariably found to have evolved from a simple system that works.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**If mathematically you end up with the incorrect answer, try multiplying by the page number.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Computers are unreliable, but humans are even more unreliable. Any system which depends on human reliability is unreliable.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Give all orders verbally. Never write anything down that might go into a "Pearl Harbor File."**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Under the most rigorously controlled conditions of pressure, temperature, volume, humidity, and other variables the organism will do as it damn well pleases.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**If you can't understand it, it is intuitively obvious.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The more cordial the buyer's secretary, the greater the odds that the competition already has the order.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**In designing any type of construction, no overall dimension can be totalled correctly after 4:30 p.m. on Friday. The correct total will become self-evident at 8:15 a.m. on Monday.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Fill what's empty. Empty what's full. And scratch where it itches.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**All things are possible except skiing through a revolving door.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The only perfect science is hind-sight.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Work smarder and not harder and be careful of yor spelng.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**If it's not in the computer, it doesn't exist.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**If an experiment works, something has gone wrong.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**When all else fails, read the instructions.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**If there is a possibility of several things going wrong the one that will cause the most damage will be the one to go wrong.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Everything that goes up must come down.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Any instrument when dropped will roll into the least accessible corner.**

**Any simple theory will be worded in the most complicated way.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Build a system that even a fool can use and only a fool will want to use it.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The degree of technical competence is inversely proportional to the level of management.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Any attempt to print Murphy's laws will jam the printer.**

\*\*\*\*\*