Society has forever changed since the adoption of computers and social networks. From a time where children had higher amounts of melanin in their skin and obesity rates were low to now, where albino introverts are the new norm. Here begins the story of how society has been shaped by the adoption of computers and social networks.

It was a brisk day, the sun was setting and everyone was on their tablets and gadgets minding their business. It was silent except for the sound of mechanical keys on a keyboard being smashed. Ty, the leader of a group of rebels, was grinding away on his laptop in a large empty field planning for the next big thing. Smart cars, phones, etc. had sucked the life out of the everyday person. No longer did one go out for fresh air with friends, there was a simulator in the house to trick your mind as if you already had. No longer did one have to sit in school for 8 hours, school was now online. There was no reason that one would have to leave their house.

However, there was a small minority who wanted to change, back to the old times. The times they had read about where sports were played outdoors and the mall was cramped with people on friday nights.

They didn’t think this was how life should have been lived. They wanted to bring back physical connections, the world back to IRL (in real life) space.

Every week Ty made a call for the revolutionists, through the dark web. He made a post asking for those to meet up at a secret location to be announced 30 minutes beforehand, to plan their takeover. Identities were anonymous, everyone a code name just to be safe. So far they had met 8 times discussing and brainstorming what was the best way to tackle the problem. They wanted every detail to be perfect. They only had one shot to carry out their plan, one shot to get it right, one shot to turn back time.

The plan was simple, they were going to crash the web. To bring it down, and bring life back. Everyone was so used to the norm, no questioning what was going on. The revolutionists needed to show everyone that life was more than just staring at a screen, life was better lived outside.
It was to happen at 7:30 P.M. and it would last an entire day. At 7:30 P.M. they would flood the servers of social networks with spam and spyware that would continue to multiply, slowing connections until the point of which all the internet shut down. There would be no social networks, no online shopping, no gaming, nothing. Just one’s body and their surroundings. There was no doubt in mind that it would turn to chaos, but Ty had a feeling that after the initial shock people would be able to relax.

The servers began to crash, there was not a signal anywhere. The revolutionists hid underground to avoid any angry mobs and interrogations. There was no knowing what one would do just to regain access to their social media.

Sirens were blaring, people running rampant outside of their houses wondering what had happened. Their cellular service was also affected. They had no idea what to do. The only things people had in their homes were electronics. There were no paper books, no board games. However, Ty had prepared.

Before the event, the revolutionists made “care packages” that contained things that people used to pass time in a time where there were no computers or social networks, board games, sports equipments anything that required nothing but a physical body and the people around you. These were dropped off in neighborhoods, one for every four houses.

The care packages were peculiar to the zGen, what were these plastic knick-knacks and what were they to do with them. It was as if they were puppies investigating a new scent. One brave soul grabbed the box and proved it was not something planted by aliens, but something new and it might be what could save them from boredom.

The directions were read aloud, people at first tried to resist joining the games, checking their devices for signal again, but there was nothing. Some accepted the demise of social networks and the internet. Others still held on to hope.

The children began engaged and interacting with one another, bonding over favorite games, animals, their pets, etc. While they might not have been following the directions to a T, but at least they were now physically together and not obsessing over others on the social networking sites.

Parents watched their children socializing and breaking out of their shy shells, thinking that these were the times that their grandparents had talked about. People putting down
the computer and just coming together to just be. An admiral smile crept upon one of their faces, as they contemplated joining in on the fun as well.

It was a few weeks later, longer than anticipated due to technical difficulties, when the revolutionists had resurfaced, along with all of the servers. It was a cloudy day, the sun peeking through. Birds were chirping and children’s laughter filled the air. The people had been so immersed in their new activities, that they had completely forgotten about the social network crash.

The revolutionists thought they would have been ambushed when they first stepped out, but it was peaceful, relaxing to hear and feel another's presence. They sent a network wide ping to the world to notify them of the fixed problem. However, people didn’t immediately drop what they were doing. Instead, they prioritized on the present and people around them. Some of them didn’t even recognize the ping noise.

They had never experienced a period without the internet and their devices, and that was all they had known of. To get them to see a better world, and to learn to balance between being online and being present was the real goal of the revolutionists.