

THE INTERNET APOCALYPSE?

The world without internet...
How would you survive?

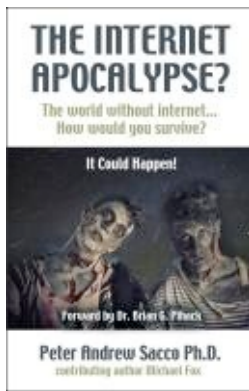
It Could Happen!



Forward by Dr. Brian G. Pihack

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Zombie apocalypses, Ebola virus, Sars, AIDS, global warming, earthquakes, you name it, etc. seem to scare the hell out of people with "What ifs?". The media takes hold of these stories and then the Internet does the rest to spread information like wildfire...a 'virus' gets started, with people living in fear because they believe the end of the world is coming! Do you have what it takes to survive if there was no Internet?

The Internet Apocalypse?

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How Would You survive?

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Chapter 1: What Would Happen If the Internet Collapsed

Have you ever thought of what would happen if we were to wake up one day and suddenly realize that there is no internet? I know the first thing that would come to your mind: impossible, right? Well, these kinds of thoughts are quite farfetched in a perfect world, but let us just think about it for a second. What if it really did happen? What would you do? How would you adjust? This is one of those things that ought to cross your mind once in a while.

The truth is that a complete breakdown of the internet will not just affect one area of our life but many aspects of it. In order to really understand the impact it would have, we need to tackle each of these different areas.

Social life without the internet

There are people who have great social lives courtesy of the internet. The internet is the most common medium of communication especially among teenagers and youth. They use social networks, email, dating sites, chat forums, and basically anything that helps in social communication and networking. To teenagers and youth, keeping up appearances is important and slacking off is committing social suicide. Do you always hear them talk about how many followers so and so has, how good their life seems and so on? This is possible through the internet. Those with a great social life have to maintain it. On the other hand, those who don't have this life are envious of the ones who do and they need the internet to be able to achieve

the same. This is today's version of "keeping up with the Joneses"!

If we rely on the internet for socialization, what would happen if it were not there? This would mean that people would have to go back to basics in order to communicate. It is easier for the generation that hasn't grown up with the internet to adjust to this. The big question is how would the current generation that has relied on the internet from an early age cope with this drastic change? Will they be able to adjust to social engagement on a basic level and will they be able to socialize?

Is it possible for lack of the internet to contribute to improved communication skills and language since people will not be infusing 'internet slang' into language anymore? Would we have a lesser chance of meeting new people, therefore leaving us with few options with regard to who we choose as spouses? This makes you think. If you have a partner, how did you meet them and did the internet contribute in any way?

Communication

We rely on the internet for most of our communication. Lack of it would mean adapting to other means of communication—probably those used before the invention of the internet such as letters—which would replace emails and phones and would take the role of chat, instant messaging, and social media among others.

Some sectors would benefit from the collapse of the internet and an example is the local postal service since it would be filled with mail. Network providers too would get a lot of money from the many phone calls people would be making. How about the fact that communication is free right now through the internet and lack of the internet would mean paying

a lot for almost the same services? Bet you never thought about that, did you? Remember snail mail...postage stamps for writing letters?

The effect on business

Every business worldwide uses the internet in one way or another whether it is a physical store or an online store. How would businesses be affected worldwide if we were to lose the internet? Some of the things that would occur include collapse of the stock market, global recession, shut down of millions of businesses which would in turn lead to a huge rate of joblessness and so on. Most of the businesses that would be greatly affected are those that rely on the internet for their survival. The only way they would survive this change is if they can do without the internet. Businesses that weren't founded on the internet and merely used it to widen their customer base have greater chances of survival especially if they can maintain their strong customer base and can afford to be diverse.

When it comes down to the consumers, we would have to buy things locally since we wouldn't have the option of shopping online. Our local towns and shops would grow tremendously and become richer. The fact that many people would lose their jobs means that the jobs in our local towns would be in high demand and people would kill to work at gas stations and supermarkets in addition to any job that has no direct connection to the internet. Sorry, bloggers; time to pump gas and check oil! Basically small town infrastructure grows, you create and buy domestic, and we become all "grass roots" again! Doesn't that make you feel all warm and fuzzy inside? For the older folks reading this, we are going back to Mayberry and hoping to run across two guys named Andy and Barney. FYI, Barney is not purple nor from the Jurassic era...

Slow down

Many of us love the internet because it is fast and helps us to get what we want or deliver information as fast as possible. In short, the internet is responsible for speeding up the world in general and in our individual lives. It is only normal to think that lack of internet would mean the slowing down of the world in various areas such as society, business, and communication.

Access to information

The internet is the place we go to when we want answers to something and it is just a huge resource directory that provides us with information at our fingertips. Therefore, if the internet was non-existent, where would we go to for this crucial information? For example, how would you know about the chemical compound of silver and such things? The answer is quite simple: books. We would have to get information the old fashioned way. Did you ever think that you might actually have to set foot in a library and start searching for a book on the topic you are interested in? Well, that is what would happen without the internet. This appears cumbersome because the process of finding the information you need will be harder than doing it via the internet. However, it is the same concept; the only difference is that the internet expanded the library a million times. Interesting, this book is available in both paperback and e-book versions. If there was no internet, here's hoping you get our book in paperback just in case! Interestingly, the publishing industry (books, newspapers, magazines, and media print) are welcoming the e-version to cut down production costs on ink and paper...not so fast! What if the world needs copies in hardcover and paperback?

There are people who communicate with their loved ones via Skype especially if they are in different locations, countries

or continents. Some of these people use this as the only way to check up on their loved ones, find out how they are doing, and catch up because they only see them once in a while. Imagine what would happen if there was no internet and you had a loved one miles or continents away? Best case scenario: operators and rotary phones could return. Worst case scenario: welcome back to snail mail, the Pony Express, horses, relay rider networks, and even dogs! Google them (you have internet for now, big smiles); it is all true!

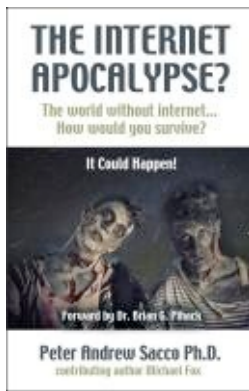
It is not clear whether or not the internet will collapse one day. However, what is clear is that various aspects of life would be affected should that happen. If the internet shuts down, we would have to change the way we communicate, how we conduct business, and tremendously modify our social lives. Generally, life would be different and slower as we know it today. Interestingly, some people complain that life is moving too fast...at the speed of light. Did that happen when internet connections were kicked up on infinitely high doses of steroid speed? No worries, folks; if it all crashes, it will be much quieter and you may actually start noticing the sound of crickets!

The reality we cannot escape is that a breakdown in the internet would cause major changes worldwide. We would feel like we are living in a different world, a slower world actually. Imagine businesses not being able to operate online and imagine having to go back to searching for information in the library.

Communication and social interactions would be mostly affected. Imagine never having the opportunity to take pictures and share them on Instagram, imagine not being able to send your potential and current clients emails concerning important business. Just thinking about it is enough to give one the chills.

The Internet Apocalypse!

It is as if the world would come to stop. It is scary, but very possible.



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