Fairy Tale - At The Library

Once upon a time there was a library on the edge of a small town. The library was fortunate to have 6 computers available for people to use. There were two desktop computers. They had been around for several years. They were slow and a bit behind the times, but they were dependable and predictable. Everyone liked them because they were easy to use and never caused any trouble. They were your average run of the mill computers with no special gadgets or fancy decorations, but they provided all of the tools the average user needed when visiting the library. The desktops liked the library because it was a place often visited and full of people, yet it was still quiet and a place where nothing too eventful or bad ever took place.

The library also had 3 laptops. The first laptop the library received was really quite amazing. It was strong and traveled all around the library and occasionally was checked out and allowed to leave the library. It wasn't the fastest computer and at times struggled to keep up. However, it was a tough laptop that was able to withstand several drops to the floor and seemed to keep running despite coffee and soft drink spills, sticky fingers, and blows that would have destroyed other laptops.

The second laptop had a faster CPU and was able to run programs the first laptop was not able to. The laptop received awards and got good marks from the library staff for being able to do its work so well. It knew the other laptops sometimes had trouble, so it tried to be dependable and independent. Because it didn't run into many problems, though, it didn't always receive the care and maintenance it thought it needed. However, the laptop knew it should be grateful for what it did have.

The third laptop seemed to lack the speed of the first two computers even though it was newer. It seemed to perform the bare minimum. It preferred to stay connected to the desktop computers where it could share power and resources. The programs it ran were a little bit off the beaten track and not too many people had heard of them.

The last computer was actually an iPhone. It came on the scene much later than the laptops and was an entirely different kind of computer. It wasn't big or fast or really tough. But it was fun and well liked and everyone wanted to use it. It was very versatile and flexible. It could be used for playing music or movies, making calls, keeping contacts, or checking email or running a variety of applications. It had benefited from the earlier arrival and use of desktops and laptops so it had a smoother and lighter design and it went places and did things the desktops and laptops didn't do. Even though it was more popular than the laptops, the laptops didn't mind because the iPhone was built to connect with both desktops and laptops and was able to network and communicate with everyone. The iPod was a joy to have around.

As time went on and the town grew, the laptops were sent off to new libraries. Just before the iPhone was to leave the library, the oldest desktop suffered a hardware failure and was unable to be recovered. It had become weakened by a few viruses and wasn't operating at full capacity, but no one expected such a sudden hardware failure. The 3rd laptop was brought back for a year to help carry the load of the missing desktop. In time, the remaining desktop gained the capacity to carry the extra load and the 3rd laptop was able to leave the library once again. The remaining desktop misses the other desktop, so it connects with the other computers as often as it can. However, the library is still a busy place and it continues to provide both work and distractions for the desktop to keep it occupied.

The laptops and iPod are now on their own in their new library homes. Over time the first laptop continued to receive many dents and patches and began to show its wear. It encountered so many challenges that it didn't seem fair. It had been damaged enough that it could occasionally be difficult to use and it was sometimes hesitant to startup when people got too close or seemed too aggressive. It

was becoming fearful of more things and often it wouldn't open its lid very easily. When other computers were brought in for special events, the laptop was commonly found hidden among the papers in the office and didn't always make it out to the library tables. It keeps plodding along though, despite the hardships and challenges, and is well loved by the patrons that use and have gotten to know the laptop.

The 3rd laptop grew wiser as it got older, it seemed to get a little faster and found the ability to run some of the standard business applications. It tried much harder now to keep pace with the other computers, but found itself falling further behind and having more and more glitches and hiccups in power.   It still depends on the desktop from the old library occasionally for power and resources, but is trying to function more on its own.

The iPhone continues to connect to many computers and is very much at home wherever it is. It remains flexible and open to change and adapts well to whatever comes its way.

The second laptop didn't encounter a lot of bumps or dents in its first years at its home in the old library. Therefore, over time it became over confident. It began to anticipate and start programs it thought people needed. Often it was wrong and ended up causing more problems than it was trying to solve. Pretty soon people didn't want to use that computer anymore. It was difficult to use and they didn't know what to expect from it. Eventually even the library staff began to disregard the second laptop and didn't enjoy the laptop like they used to. When it was time, the laptop was happy to be transferred to a new library, leave the other computers, and get a new start. It was ready to be off on its own. However, as time went on, the laptop slowly lost confidence in its abilities. It was content to stay back on the shelves and not be used because it knew that it wasn't working correctly and didn't want to cause problems for anyone that might use it. It started to grow weak. Once, the battery drained so low it almost completely lost its charge. The laptop was content to head to the recycling center to be made into something new. However, the computer technician found the laptop and took it to the repair shop to have the battery reconditioned. The other computers didn't know what had happened to the laptop while it was away at the new library. When they received the communication, the first laptop blamed the second laptop for being selfish and for making the desktops worry. The desktops told the second laptop that they had always worried that if the laptop had gotten dropped, hit, or if anything bad ever happened, that they were afraid the laptop would fall apart. These comments stayed with the laptop for a long time. So, the second time the battery went low, the laptop didn't tell anyone. It tried to manage enough power to continue its work and do what it was supposed to. However, eventually the laptop's battery reached such a low that it couldn't continue anymore on its own. The laptop borrowed power from those computers closest to it, but no communication or connection was sent back to the old library or to any of the original computers.

The laptop makes periodic trips back to the repair shop for work on the battery. Some visits are more successful than others. The possibility of letting the power fade still flicker in memory, although the hope for a battery that runs on a different kind of power remains.

Occasionally, the 4 computers end up back at the old library again to connect to the network for backups and maintenance. The computers enjoy their time together, especially the desktop, who is not as mobile as the laptops and iPhone are. They enjoy connecting and communicating with each other once again. Not all data is shared, but the connection is preserved and all is well.