

ESSAY TOPIC 2 IN PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Background: You're a celebrity in the computer world! You are barely in your forties, you are the owner of the stock market comet *Mind Hash*, a collaborative system for innovators. But you are also known in media for your razor-sharp analyses of science and pseudoscience in the world of computers and that is why *Time magazine* has asked you to comment on the fear of an impending global data collapse and the commercial entities that offer protection from this.

Rumor has it that North Korean agents have managed to insert Trojan horses into the common operating systems of computers and mobile phones. On Kim Il-Sung's hundredth birthday, April 15, 2013, every system will collapse.

A U.S. company advertises the 1000 \$ software Kill'im-Sung, which is claimed to be the only protection against the attack. Millions of users have already purchased the program. South Korean Samsung has just released a mobile Sang Sung and a laptop Sing Sang Sung said to be immune from attack. Kjell & Co. is selling a USB contraption called Nosung for a hundred dollars which allegedly provides protection.

You have accepted the assignment with the secret motive of giving you the opportunity to give hundreds of thousands of readers insight into scientific theory and methodology . . .

1. The above background is given but the content of the paper is up to you. It should be at least one A4 and no more than four A4 long and it must be handed in no later than 14 January 2014.
The LADOK grade will be pass/fail, but I will grade the essay A-E and your final grade in the course will be the mean of essay and exam grades.
2. Your essay must contain at least two epistemological comments and at least two comments on methodology. You may go beyond the course book content.
3. The epistemological comments must be relevant to the source of the commotion.
4. The methodology comments should naturally address the implementation of a scientific investigation of the site.
5. An image or a diagram always illustrates a news article in the Times.
6. For a higher grade, a readable, exciting and original essay is required. For a passing grade the essay must be your own work. Have fun creating it!