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FROM: 10157091

TO:

SUBJECT: #14 - The Geek In Me

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I'm anxious to see how far technology has advanced in the past five years. I often read PC World and MaximumPC, and I see pictures and descriptions of tablets, smartphones, netbooks and all these new things that I don't remember seeing much of when I got arrested. A lot of this technology wasn't available at all back then.

We're so far behind in here. Yes, we have email, but it's a bare-bones service; no attachments of any kind. No mobile alerts, no portable storage, no apps and definitely no Cloud (which still has me somewhat confused, although I hope to remedy that). None of it. Our email is just email, which is great, even if it is reminiscent of the ISP's of the mid-90's.

I hope you don't think I'm exaggerating. Because I'm not.

I saw the holiday catalog from ThinkGeek.com this year. The guy that loaned it to me had to wait six weeks to get it. Inside, I found battery powered candles with a flickering LED that will go out when you blow on them. I found a t-shirt that will indicate the Wi-Fi signal strength in the area. I found a box the size of a disposable camera that will display a working laserlight keyboard on any flat surface. I found Nintendo graphics wall decals, caffeinated soap, and a shower curtain emblazoned with the periodic table of elements.

Gimme.

How did I overlook all the cool stuff that was available in 2007? Technology has advanced in leaps and bounds since then, but they still had some kickass products. Remember iPhone? Blu-Ray? Xbox 360? At that time, however, the geek in me was caught in a chokehold by the addict in me. Consequently, the most advanced piece of technology I owned was a digital camera I'd found at a pawn shop for fifty dollars. I don't even remember the brand. I spent many nights drinking cheap vodka and trolling peer-to-peer networks for porn, not all of it legal. And I'm sorry. I'm sorry, but that's how it was.

I don't want to be that anymore. I wasted a large portion of my life and the lives of my family members, and I need to make up for it. Will I ever be able to make amends for everything? Maybe. Maybe not. But I'm going to try.

My brother recently confided to me that maybe (Please.) just maybe (Pretty please.) he might be open to the idea of us building a desktop PC together. Look, this idea appeals to me the way a puzzle might appeal to my grandparents, although this puzzle is somewhat more expensive, and putting a piece in backwards could potentially result in a house fire, and DEAR GOD don't let anything touch the carpet.

But otherwise it's pretty much the same.

I guess the bottom line is this: I'm ready for life. I'm prepared to move forward and face my demons, and to undoubtedly be judged by many legal figures and potential employers. I know things are going to be difficult for me. I'm afraid, but I'm also looking forward to proving myself. In the words of comedian Gabriel Iglesias:

"HEREWEGOLETHERRIPLETSDOIT!!!"