A Big Piece of Cheese?
Interesting Mainframe Analogies

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Agenda

• The Simple Facts
• Historical Perceptions
• A Side Door Approach
• My Analogies
• Your Analogies
• Now What?

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The Simple Facts

- The pre-history of computing until SHARE
- The gestation of computing until 1964
- The infancy of computing until 1972
- Childhood friends/bullies
- Coming of age: Y2K
- Illusions and realities: who’s working
- Saving the IBM mainframe
Historical Perceptions

• Turing
• “Computer”
• Esoteric technology
• Clunky calculator
• Redo
• Moon
• Fold, bend, mutilate
• Blinking lights
• To err…
• Monolithic, inflexible
• It works
• Cool!
A Side Door Approach

- My Kids
- Resistance Defines
- Skip the Confrontation: Go for Inspiration

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My Analogies

- Cheese
- Oil sand trucks
- Cows and chickens
- Volvo trucks and dirt bikes
- Clouds and mountains
- Keeps and huts
- Cities and communes
- Banks and pawn shops
Your Analogies - Strategies

• Think of something you know and care about
• What’s deep and reliable? What’s not?
• Think of something bizarre and interesting
• What’s profound? What’s stupid?
• Think of people you respect and care about
• Why do they deserve to know?
Now What?

• Write up one or more “elevator speeches”
• Practice on friends, family, mirror
• Consider joining Toastmasters
• In social contexts where you can share, do or think of how and prepare for next time
Thank you

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