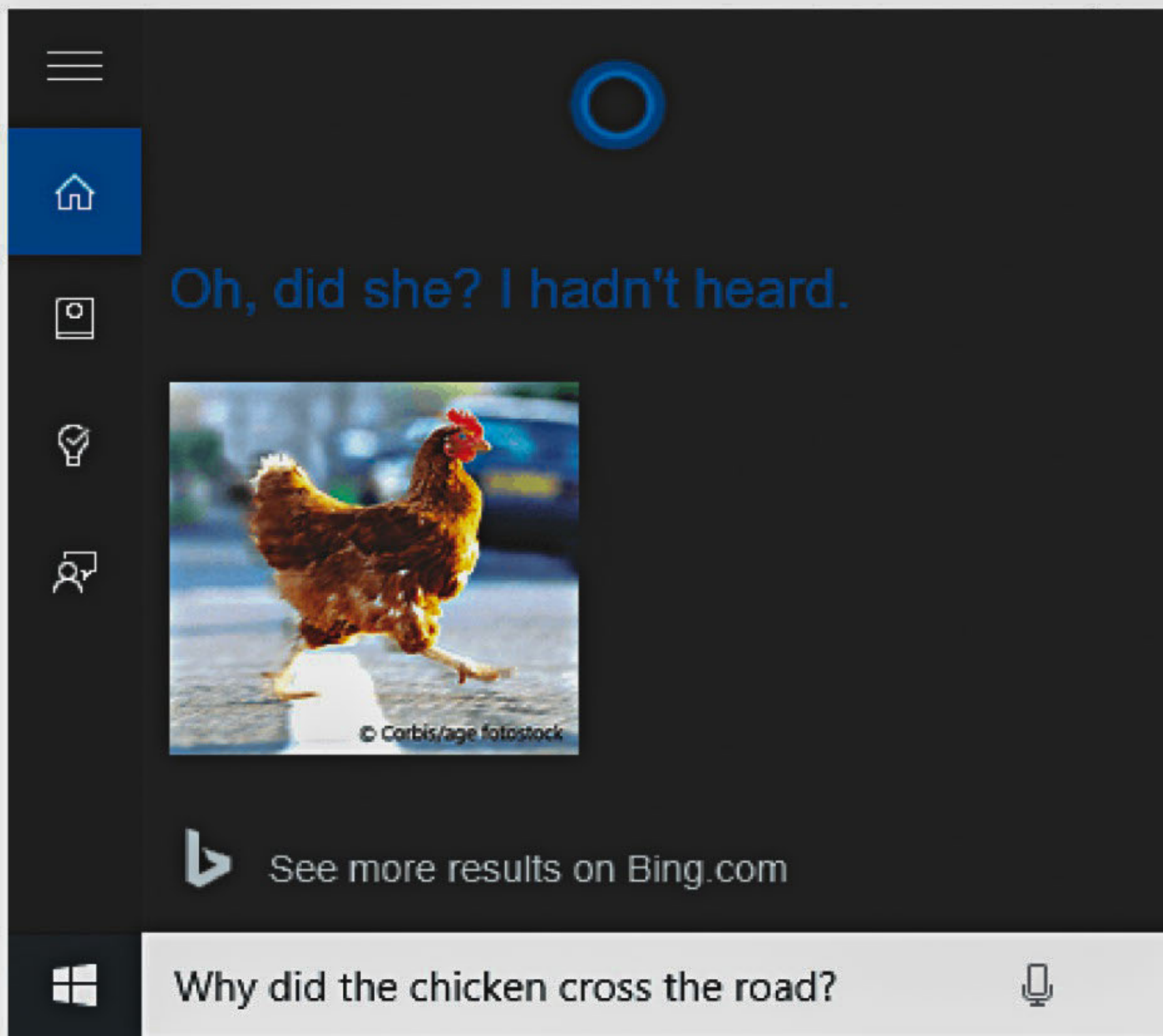


# Struggles of Switching to a New Operating System

ZARIN RAYHANA

Last month I suddenly upgraded my laptop to Windows 10. Not only had I paid for it, but I also bade adieu to my favorite operating system of all time – Windows 7. I was quite satisfied with the way it worked. But despite that, I decided it would be no harm switching to the newest operating system, which, months ago, was literally given away for free.

So I waited for it to install, what Microsoft calls the “Best Windows Ever”. To be honest, I can't blame them. Windows 10 actually has a lot of interesting features, starting from the Xbox App to Cortana, a personal AI assistant. However, there is no option to change its voice to Ricky Martin's. Anyways, then the Windows 10 user interface loaded and I must say, I was blown away. The blue color was so dull that I started wondering if I was color blind. Hence, my first move was to change the background. Spoiler: Windows 10 comes with the most mundane of background pictures. There is nothing cute or colorful like Windows 7. Come on, give me something fancy! Putting aside my initial disappointment, I proceeded to check out the other features. I browsed through the Store, which gave me the level 2 disappointment. Why on earth would I ever download Talking Angela on my LAPTOP?



I went through Cortana, providing my email and password. And that is when things started to get messed up. Cortana kept grumbling that she could not log into

my email and the screen froze. I had no other choice but to restart my laptop. Now it required a password to start. As far as I remembered, I never set a password for my

laptop. Inwardly cursing, I typed in my Gmail password and thankfully, it worked. My next thought was, “How do I make it password-free again?” Sadly, I still haven't figured that out. Thank you Microsoft; now most of my family members know my Gmail password. No big deal, right?

Next, when I opened Google Chrome, it wouldn't let me browse any websites at all. I kept trying but there was no luck. That is how I discovered Microsoft Edge in the Start Menu. It's way better than Internet Explorer, and I used it to download the newest version of Chrome. After a while, I realized there was no Windows Media Center, whereas the first thing that should've been removed from Windows 10 is Internet Explorer. But still Microsoft, I love you.

Even though my laptop screen now freezes more often, I have decided to stick with Windows 10. Office 2010 is similar to the previous versions and I can check my mail from the Start Menu. Then there's the best thing ever - the Xbox app.

And FYI, Cortana actually works now all of a sudden.

*Zarin Rayhana is a self-aggrandizing ambivert who ponders over philosophical epiphanies during rainy evenings and waits for her crush to jump straight out of her favorite novel. Treat her with novel suggestions at ericaavianazarin@gmail.com*

# A Study on Anonymity

NUREN IFTEKHAR

Freedom of speech will always be a controversial topic. I will neither shun it nor sing its praise because morality is incredibly subjective. I will instead try to look at what happens when freedom of speech is indeed perfectly implemented through the mask of anonymity. And I will do that through my personal observation of a much known anonymous image board, 4chan.

What started off as a seemingly innocent place for people to discuss Mangas or Animes soon turned into something much more once people saw what anonymity brings to the table. In 4chan no one knows who the person behind a post is. Not even a username exists to separate someone from the crowd. Arguments can be had that it is possible to stay anonymous behind a username but the idea of having a username shifts the focus from the 'opinion' to the 'person with the opinion'. And that is what made 4chan different from other hubs such as Reddit or Tumblr in the first place. In 4chan, you're not supposed to get any “internet points” in the form of upvotes or likes. Only your opinion matters, not who you are or who agrees with you.

Now 4chan has many different boards each discussing a particular field, (or none at all, like the random board '/b/') but I'd like to talk about one board in



particular, /pol/ or 'Politically Incorrect'. One of the most infamous boards on 4chan, /pol/ is where you post opinions on international politics, news, world events and so on. If you're new to 4chan, the first thing you'll notice is how blunt and offensive the majority of the opinions posted in /pol/ are. This is due to the fact that 4chan does not moderate any opinions whatsoever. That coupled with the fact that your identity is safe and hidden behind a post number, brings out the reserved and confined side in a person that one can never let out in an actual conversation. In case of /pol/, these

reserved opinions lean towards being racist, misogynist and extremely idealistic in nature. This is not a discussion of whether it is right or wrong. This is a reflection on the fact that such extreme opinions exist behind the facade of our civil and docile nature.

The tendency to be a part of society is one that we inherited as our civilization grew. But with that we also received this desire to “fit in” and to morph our opinions to fit the perspective that the majority agree with. But once we put on the mask of anonymity, we are stripped of the reins on our speech and perhaps even our

thoughts. 4chan, a simple image board, ends up stroking a broader picture of how anonymity brings out the unrefined and earnest side in many of us buried under layers of superficial formality. Maybe we're not the person we claim to be in society, and maybe that's a good thing. Well, you'll have to be the judge of that.

*Nuren Iftekhar is your local stray cat in disguise; he interacts with people for food and hates bright light. He got Hufflepuff 3 times straight in Pottermore so no walking around that one. Send him obscure memes at n.iftekhar18@gmail.com*