

## STORY 3

# THE DIGITAL DATA DISASTER



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**MASKI Adventures**

In the big bright lab full of blinking lights and whirring machines, **MASKI** was very busy.

He was working on an important new project for all his friends who depended on him as their study buddy. It was a formula that could solve any maths problem in seconds.

**MASKI** spent hours adding numbers, testing equations, and making sure everything was perfect.

**'This is my best work ever,'** thought **MASKI** happily. **'This will help the learners to love mathematics as much as I do.'**

But just as he was about to finish, a message flashed on his screen: **'WARNING: SYSTEM UPDATE REQUIRED'**.

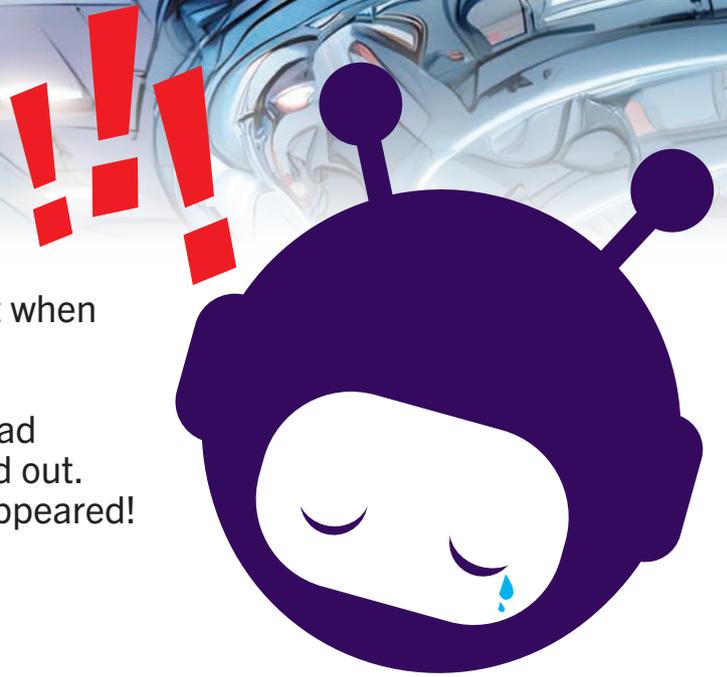
**MASKI** ignored it. **'I don't have time for updates!'** My maths project is too important.'



A few moments later, his screen flickered. Then — BZZT! — everything went dark.

**MASKI'S** circuits buzzed as he rebooted, but when the screen lit up again, he gasped.

All his numbers were gone. His calculations had vanished. All the testing equations were wiped out. His Super Maths project had completely disappeared!



'No, no, no!' shouted **MASKI** desperately, pressing random buttons in a panic. 'Where did my data go?'

Giggy's lights blinked from across the lab. 'What's wrong, **MASKI**?'

'My maths! My numbers, my project! It's all gone!'

'Oh dear. Did you back up the data?' asked Giggy.

'Did you save it somewhere, like on a hard drive, a memory stick or in the Cloud?'

**MASKI** shrugged, 'Uh ... I thought my computer would remember it.'

DID YOU  
SAVE YOUR  
WORK?

Giggy shook his head, 'Oh **MASKI!** Computers are smart, but they need help!

**You have to save your work, or it can disappear during updates, power outages or storms.'**

**MASKI'S** circuit boards whined as he processed this new information. 'So ... if I had saved my maths project, it wouldn't be lost?'

'I'm afraid so,' said Giggy sadly.

**MASKI** sighed. 'So this means all my hard work on that coding for my Super Maths programme has been lost forever! I guess I'll have to start over.'

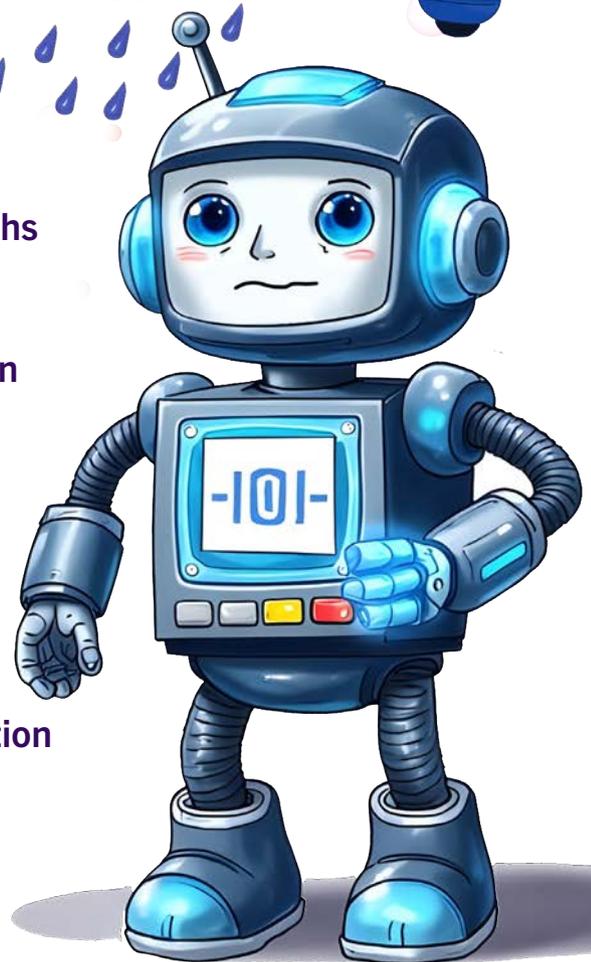
Giggy patted his friend's shoulder. 'This time, let's save your work as you go! But first, to avoid any more disasters, I think you need a little lesson on saving data!'

Giggy explained:

'Data is simple. It is just lots of collected information or numbers that help us learn things and understand our working world better.'

'Well, that makes sense,' said **MASKI**. 'We make very important decisions based on the data that we have.'

'Yes, and once you realise that, you will understand how important it is to store data to keep it safe,' said Giggy.



‘Storing data is a little like magic. Imagine you have a magical notebook where you can write anything down and never lose it.

That’s kind of how our computers store data. We type in the information, the computer processes it and then keeps it safe for us.’

Computers, big and small, are sensitive to many things. Storms (especially lightning), power outages, liquids (don’t spill your juice or water on the computer keyboard!) and power surges can all harm your computer.

The hard drive can also become full and prevent the safe saving of your data.’



‘And, just like children keep their books and toys safe in different places, the computer can store data in many ways.

You can store it on an external hard drive, a USB stick (Universal Serial Bus) or in the Cloud (a collection of servers in data centres around the world that offer secure off-site storage). Hard drives and USB sticks are like little portable treasure chests of saved data. They can store homework, photos, music and even videos.

You can plug them into most computers or even Smart TVs.

But the systems are complicated and need to be allowed to update all the time. The updates make sure that our data remains safe.

**REMEMBER:**  
We have to take great care of our data and computers. Always label your folders and files and **ALWAYS SAVE EVERYTHING!**

**MASKI** listened carefully to what Giggy had to say. From that day on, he never forgot to save his work.

**AND HIS SUPER MATHS PROJECT? IT TURNED OUT EVEN BETTER THE SECOND TIME AROUND!**