Shayna (00:00):
(Music).
(00:08):
Hey, I'm Shayna.

Paige (00:09):
And I'm Paige.

Shayna (00:10):
And this is BCC.

Paige (00:11):
... Where we copy you in.

Shayna (00:13):
... On internet stories.

Paige (00:14):
... From around the world.

(00:22):
Hi, everyone. My name is Paige, and on this episode of BCC, Shayna and I take turns asking various people in our lives to answer one very simple question: what is the internet?

(00:35):
I hope you enjoy.

(00:48):
Hello, my name is Paige, and today I'm talking with my niece. Introduce yourself.

Sage Chin (00:53):
My name is Sage Chin.

Paige (00:56):
And what are we talking about today, Sage?

Sage Chin (00:58):
The internet.

Paige (01:00):
What is the internet?

Sage Chin (01:02):
We can watch what we're watching on YouTube and we can watch our stuff and...
Paige (01:08):
What stuff do you watch on YouTube?

Sage Chin (01:11):
I watch different stuff.

Paige (01:15):
What kind of videos? Like video games or cartoons?

Sage Chin (01:20):
Yeah. I watch video games and cartoons.

Paige (01:24):
Do you know what WiFi is?

Sage Chin (01:27):
Yes.

Paige (01:32):
What's WiFi?

Sage Chin (01:32):
WiFi is how we get internet.

Paige (01:36):
So the internet is very, very new. Do you like the internet?

Sage Chin (01:41):
Yes.

Paige (01:42):
Do you think it's useful?

Sage Chin (01:42):
No, it's not useful.

Paige (01:42):
You don't think it's useful? You said you use it to watch YouTube videos. Isn't that useful?

Sage Chin (01:42):
Yes.

Paige (01:42):
So the internet is useful. You think it's useful?

Sage Chin (01:57):
Yes.

Paige (01:58):
Does the internet help you with school?

Sage Chin (02:01):
Yes, because if we have a computer, we can write what we're writing.

Paige (02:08):
So you use a computer to take notes for class?

Sage Chin (02:11):
Yes.

Speaker 8 (02:11):
See, it's useful. It helps you to learn.
(02:15):
Okay. Say bye to everyone.

Sage Chin (02:15):
Bye.

Shayna (02:20):
Okay. My question is, what is the internet? In your opinion, what is the internet?

Speaker 4 (02:26):
I'd say it's just a sort of hive mind that people can connect to and unconnect from.

Shayna (02:33):
A hive mind?

Speaker 4 (02:34):
Yeah.

Shayna (02:35):
What is a hive mind?

Speaker 4 (02:36):
Because everyone can transmit information and stuff and whatever they want instantly and it can reach whoever they want it to reach. So it's like everyone's connected at the mind sort of.

Shayna (02:48):
Oh. That's kind of scary.

Speaker 4 (02:49):
I mean, that's ...

Shayna (02:50):
That sounds really sci-fi.

Speaker 4 (02:51):
Yeah. I couldn't figure out a better word to describe people being connected all together.

Shayna (02:59):
Hive mind.

Speaker 4 (02:59):
Like multiple-

Shayna (03:01):
Like bees. Like how bees move.

Speaker 4 (03:02):
Yeah, yeah.

Shayna (03:03):
Bees have a hive mind. Or do they?

Speaker 4 (03:06):
Sure.

Shayna (03:06):
Or am I just ... ? I don't know. Am I making that up?

Speaker 4 (03:09):
No, that's it. That's a hive mind.

Shayna (03:10):
Because they move as a swarm.

Speaker 4 (03:12):
Yeah.

Shayna (03:13):
But do you have to subscribe to the hive in order to do it?

Speaker 4 (03:13):
I mean, not necessarily.

Shayna (03:22):
What if you're an individual or if you have a difference of opinion?

Speaker 4 (03:26):
I mean, there's always going to be someone else who has the same opinion as you because there's so many people on the internet.

Shayna (03:33):
Yeah.

Speaker 4 (03:34):
So there's going to be someone the same as you. There's going to be your own little cluster to be a part of.

Shayna (03:39):
Okay. Okay.
(03:42):
What was the first thing you did on the internet? Do you remember?

Speaker 4 (03:47):
I think it was play the Star Wars Lego Advent Calendar video game on lego.com.

Shayna (03:54):
Was that your very first thing?

Speaker 4 (03:57):
Yeah. I think that was ... Not counting mom putting YouTube videos on for me, that was probably it.

Shayna (04:02):
Oh, wow.

Speaker 4 (04:03):
Yeah.

Shayna (04:03):
And you remember that.

Speaker 4 (04:04):
I mean, that's the only thing I can ... As far as I can remember, yeah.

Shayna (04:09):
Was it fun?

Speaker 4 (04:10):
It was pretty fun. It was just a really badly made platformer game, and I had the time of my life playing it.

Shayna (04:16):
That's so great.

Speaker 4 (04:16):
Yeah.

Shayna (04:18):
Well, thanks.

(04:18):
Where do you think the internet is headed?

Speaker 4 (04:22):
It's probably going to be embedded in people's minds at some point. It's literally going to be a hive mind. Yeah.

Shayna (04:27):
Like an actual hive mind?

Speaker 4 (04:27):
Hmm-mm.

Shayna (04:28):
And we're just going to connect to each other?

Speaker 4 (04:30):
Definitely. You touch someone's finger and you send a bunch of files to them.

Shayna (04:34):
Oh man, that's really intense.

Speaker 4 (04:36):
Yeah. Yeah.

Shayna (04:37):
It's going to happen though?

Speaker 4 (04:38):
Probably.

Shayna (04:38):
In your lifetime, you think?

Speaker 4 (04:39):
No. Maybe, maybe. I don't know.

Shayna (04:42):
How long is it going to take for it [inaudible 00:04:43]?

Speaker 4 (04:43):
I mean, Elon Musk did that Neura ...

Shayna (04:43):
Neuralink?

Speaker 4 (04:45):
... Neuralink chip that goes in people's minds. So probably soon-ish.

Shayna (04:50):
Yeah. They probably have already done it. We just don't know about it.

Speaker 4 (04:53):
Yeah. Yeah.

Shayna (04:54):
Okay. Well, thanks.

Speaker 4 (04:55):
No problem.

Shayna (04:56):
Appreciate it.

Speaker 4 (04:57):
Thanks.
Shayna (04:57):
Bye.

Paige (04:59):
Hi, Chris.

Christopher Gill (05:00):
Hi. Good evening.

Paige (05:02):
Do you want to introduce yourself for our listeners?

Christopher Gill (05:04):
Sure. My name is Christopher Gill. I'm a software developer. I started programming when I was pretty young, around 13 years old. And I'm almost 30 now, so I've been doing this for a while.

Paige (05:16):
A long time.

(05:17):
Self-taught, no?

Christopher Gill (05:18):
Yes, I am self-taught.

Paige (05:20):
So my question for you is, what is the internet?

Christopher Gill (05:25):
To me, the internet is my bread and butter, but more practically it's a global network. It's a lot of computers that are connected together using different types of hardware, and essentially users, being people, come together on either end of those systems and interact in some way, shape or form.

(05:50):
So many people communicate, socialize on the internet. People run business on the internet. There's also e-commerce, also a space for learning.

(06:03):
It's a large interconnected set of systems that, as a community across the world, we've built a lot of experiences on top of so that we can be better connected and share information and access tons of services, and so on.

[NEW_PARAGRAPH]And then there's internet of things, which is where we're bringing hardware online as well.

Paige (06:23):
Oh [inaudible 00:06:25].

Christopher Gill (06:24):
Like smart bridges, smart microwaves, even a smart sprinkler.
(06:29):
So yeah, it's just all this hardware that we're seeing around us, giving it the ability to communicate and to come online.
(06:37):
And to me, that is kind of what the internet is.

Paige (06:41):
I guess I want to ask you as well, since you mentioned smart fridges and smart microwaves, my first thought was, "Oh my God, everything is going to be able to connect to the internet in the future." What do you think the future of the internet holds?

Christopher Gill (06:57):
Well, there's often the boogeyman feeling that people get when thinking about their fridges becoming smart and things of that nature.

Paige (07:07):
Hmm-mm.

Christopher Gill (07:08):
I had a discussion the other day with a family member about smart locks, you know, locks on your home that are connected to the internet. And the concern that the person had was, "Is this safe?" And I think there's a lot of fear when we think about stuff like that. But at the same time, I think we can think about just accessibility.
(07:31):
You know, a lot of us are privileged to have all of our faculties and so it's easy for us to get up and turn the knob on a door or get into a fridge and check something, or whatever the case may be. But I think with more of our devices becoming smarter and smarter, it's not just about becoming more convenient for those of us who already have access, but for us to bring more people to make the overall experience of what we're seeing as the internet more inclusive.
(08:03):
So that's my hope as we make more and more of our devices smarter. It's not just about the convenience, but it's also about improving the quality of life of those who are differently abled.

Paige (08:18):
No, I absolutely agree. And here at the foundation, we believe the internet is for everyone, and that was a perfectly great lead into that. Thank you for chatting with me.

Christopher Gill (08:28):
No problem. Glad to help.
Shayna (08:31):
Hey, there.

Speaker 6 (08:32):
Hi.

Shayna (08:34):
So what's the internet?

Speaker 6 (08:36):
Are you asking because you don't know?

Shayna (08:37):
No. I just think it's a really difficult question to answer. So we're just asking a bunch of people of different ages, because I think understanding of what it is depends on where you are generationally.

Speaker 6 (08:51):
Hmm-mm.

Shayna (08:53):
So for you, what is the internet?

Speaker 6 (08:57):
I think for me, the internet is synonymous with work. Without it, I can't work. My work day begins and ends with the internet.

Shayna (09:07):
What does that mean?

Speaker 6 (09:08):
It means communications, sending emails, receiving emails, reading documents, editing documents in the cloud.

Shayna (09:18):
In the cloud. What's the cloud?

Speaker 6 (09:21):
An ephemeral space of infinite storage.

Shayna (09:27):
Okay, okay.
Collaborating on projects, synchronously, asynchronously with people in different places, and then meetings on Zoom.

Shayna (09:42):
On Zoom, on video.

Speaker 6 (09:43):
Hmm-mm. Or Google Meet

Shayna (09:46):
Or Google Meet.

Speaker 6 (09:47):
Is it Meet? Is it Hangout?

Shayna (09:48):
Yes, I think so. Whatever. I'm not sure.

Speaker 6 (09:51):
Whatever it is.

Shayna (09:51):
Hmm-mm. Yes, Google Meet, I think, is correct.

Speaker 6 (09:55):
Yeah.

(09:56):
The internet for me is communication and work.

Shayna (10:02):
But what is internet outside of work? Is there an internet outside of work?

Speaker 6 (10:06):
Yes. Well, right ... And yes, actually, there is, because then when my workday is over, I might be watching TV, which is actually streaming shows.

Shayna (10:22):
Okay.

Speaker 6 (10:24):
More internet.

Shayna (10:25):
Okay. Got it. Streaming shows.

Speaker 6 (10:28):
Maybe I'm also streaming music.

Shayna (10:29):
Streaming music. Okay.
(10:31):
And what's a stream?

Speaker 6 (10:32):
Oh.

Shayna (10:38):
Is it a verb? Like if you are streaming? To stream means what?

Speaker 6 (10:46):
In my mind, I imagine it as a conduit. Something that is there, so it's always there in anticipation of needing to be accessed, which makes it streamable. And then when you stream it, that's when you're accessing it.

Shayna (11:07):
Okay. Okay. I'm following it.

Speaker 6 (11:11):
But that must take a lot of energy actually to keep all of those things at the ready at our fingertips.

Shayna (11:17):
I think it does.

Speaker 6 (11:18):
Because it's not like they're firing up the furnace every time you click on a Netflix title, right?

Shayna (11:25):
I don't think they do.

Speaker 6 (11:25):
So that's a lot.

Shayna (11:28):
It is.
(11:29):
What else? Any other ways that you think about the internet?

Speaker 6 (11:36):
Information. For me, it's information and learning and teaching, because I'm a teacher, so that's where the content is, where assignments are, oftentimes where lectures happen, where grades are stored and accessed by students.

(12:03):
Really, it's like a whole classroom space exists there.

Shayna (12:08):
Virtually.

Speaker 6 (12:09):
Virtually. Yeah.

Shayna (12:11):
Amazing.

(12:13):
And you have internet at home?

Speaker 6 (12:15):
Yes.

Shayna (12:16):
And what is that?

Speaker 6 (12:18):
Lightning fast internet.

Shayna (12:20):
But what is it? Describe your internet at home.

Speaker 6 (12:25):
It's access to a signal ... Wait, what is it?

Shayna (12:25):
I don't know. I'm asking you.

Speaker 6 (12:36):
I imagine it's access. Yeah, access to a satellite, to a thing.
Do we have wires in here for it? Maybe we do. We have wires. It's wired. It's not wireless, right? The router? Because it's plugged into a thing.

Shayna (12:42):
Hmm-mm.

Speaker 6 (12:52):
Okay, so we're connected to a network of fiber optic cables.

Shayna (12:57):
Okay.

Speaker 6 (12:59):
Our router is. Inside the house, it's wireless.

Shayna (12:59):
Okay.

Speaker 6 (13:03):
But the thing itself is connected to a network of wires and those wires go somewhere. Probably to a big central computer or a bunch of computers. I don't know.

Shayna (13:18):
I think that was pretty good.

Speaker 6 (13:22):
It's a bit of a mystery, but I also can live with a mystery as long as it works.

Shayna (13:31):
You don't really care.

Speaker 6 (13:32):
As long as I can stream my things and have my meetings, yeah, I'm happy to live with the mystery.

Shayna (13:39):
Great. Well, thank you for sharing that with me.

Speaker 6 (13:43):
Well, thanks for asking. This has been a very illuminating conversation.

Shayna (13:47):
I'm glad.
(13:50):
What is the internet to you? When I say, "What is the internet?", what do you think about?

Speaker 7 (13:57):
Looking up information.

Shayna (13:59):
Huh-huh. On what? What do you have to use to do it?

Speaker 7 (14:03):
Computer.

Shayna (14:06):
I love how you say it.

Speaker 7 (14:06):
What?

Shayna (14:09):
I love how you say it, like if it's right or wrong. There is no right or wrong answer, but okay.

Speaker 7 (14:15):
You can do it on your phone.

Shayna (14:16):
You can do it on your phone, yes.
(14:19):
What else? Do you have internet here?

Speaker 7 (14:23):
Yeah.

Shayna (14:24):
Right. Because you have that box in the room?

Speaker 7 (14:28):
Yeah.

Shayna (14:28):
Hmm-mm.

Speaker 7 (14:30):
Yeah. My mind is blank when you say internet.
Shayna (14:33):
But maybe because it's just such a normal thing that you don't think about it anymore?

Speaker 7 (14:38):
I guess not. I mean, I guess not, because ... See, I'm thinking two different things. I'm thinking about on my phone a lot, I go on YouTube.

Shayna (14:48):
Yes. Uh-huh. That's the internet.

Speaker 7 (14:51):
Is that the internet?

Shayna (14:52):
Yes.

Speaker 7 (14:52):
Oh, okay.

(14:52):
Yeah.

Shayna (14:59):
What else? Where else do you go? You go to YouTube, and what else?

Speaker 7 (15:02):
That's really it.

Shayna (15:03):
Do you go to other websites?

Speaker 7 (15:05):
No.

Shayna (15:06):
No?

Speaker 7 (15:06):
Mm-mm. Because I don't have them. You know that ... ? What is it? Hulu and all that stuff?

Shayna (15:12):
Hmm-mm.
Speaker 7 (15:13):
I don't have it.

Shayna (15:14):
On your phone?

Speaker 7 (15:15):
Right.

Shayna (15:15):
Right. Okay.

Speaker 7 (15:17):
So I couldn't use it, right?

Shayna (15:20):
But what about the news?

Speaker 7 (15:20):
TikTok.

Shayna (15:23):
TikTok? You can get TikTok if you want TikTok. You can put it on there.

Speaker 7 (15:27):
I don't want no TikTok.

Shayna (15:31):
What about email? You get emails.

Speaker 7 (15:34):
Hmm-mm.

Shayna (15:36):
And you send emails because you've sent me emails.

Speaker 7 (15:38):
Yeah, I get them and I send them all the time.

Shayna (15:40):
Yes, you do. So that's the internet.

Speaker 7 (15:43):
Okay.

Shayna (15:43):
Hmm-mm.

Speaker 7 (15:44):
So I use that almost daily.

Shayna (15:47):
Exactly. So you're kind of an expert actually.

Speaker 7 (15:51):
No.

Shayna (15:51):
You've been using it a long time.

Speaker 7 (15:53):
Well, yeah.

Shayna (15:54):
Right.
(15:56):
What's your email address? Or where is it? Is it verizon.net or AOL or something? Do you know? It's like your name @ something, right?

Speaker 7 (16:14):
My emails, right?

Shayna (16:15):
Yeah.

Speaker 7 (16:16):
Gmail.com.

Shayna (16:18):
Oh, so you have a Gmail?

Speaker 7 (16:19):
Yeah.

Shayna (16:19):
That's great.

Speaker 7 (16:20):
Yeah.

Shayna (16:21):
That's a good one. That's a recent one.

Speaker 7 (16:24):
Okay.

Shayna (16:24):
Gmail.com. That's good.

Speaker 7 (16:26):
Yeah. I have that.

Shayna (16:28):
Hmm-mm.

[NEW_PARAGRAPH]What else?

Speaker 7 (16:31):
And I guess I do all of it on the phone.

Shayna (16:32):
You do. Exactly.

Speaker 7 (16:33):
Because I don't use the computer no more. I mean, I can, but I don't.

Shayna (16:37):
You don't.

Speaker 7 (16:38):
And I don't have one of those, which I said I'm going to do.

Shayna (16:38):
What?

Speaker 7 (16:42):
I think I had one here.

Shayna (16:43):
What?

Speaker 7 (16:43):
The tablet.

Shayna (16:45):
You do. I think you do have one [inaudible 00:16:47].

Speaker 7 (16:46):
I know I had one.

Shayna (16:48):
But you don't use it?

Speaker 7 (16:49):
No, but Paige and all of them use theirs.

Shayna (16:49):
I know. You should.

Speaker 7 (16:53):
I think. And I could get more information on it.

Shayna (16:55):
Yeah.

Speaker 7 (16:55):
It seems.

Shayna (16:57):
It's like a big phone.

Speaker 7 (16:58):
Yeah.

Shayna (16:59):
It's like a bigger phone. So it works kind of the same way your phone works, it's just bigger.
I think you do have one of them.

Speaker 7 (17:05):
I'll have to find mine.

Shayna (17:09):
I know. So you can do some stuff.

Speaker 7 (17:11):
Yeah, I know.

Shayna (17:11):
Do you do video calls? No?

Speaker 7 (17:11):
No.

Shayna (17:15):
Sometimes? If you have somebody else's phone?

Speaker 7 (17:19):
Yeah, somebody else's phone.

Shayna (17:20):
Yeah. Then you can video call.

Speaker 7 (17:20):
Hmm-mm.

Shayna (17:22):
But you could probably video call on your tablet if we find it.

Speaker 7 (17:25):
Yeah.

Shayna (17:26):
Hmm-mm.

Speaker 7 (17:27):
It should be right in there on the shelf.

Shayna (17:30):
Really?
Speaker 7 (17:30):
If I have it.

Shayna (17:32):
Okay, I'll look for it.

Speaker 7 (17:34):
I don't know when the last time I even saw it.

Shayna (17:36):
Okay. I don't know either.

Speaker 7 (17:37):
I don't know why I stopped using it.

Shayna (17:39):
But maybe you don't need it. Maybe you got all the things you need on your phone so you don't need it.

Speaker 7 (17:44):
Right. And I had the computer.

Shayna (17:46):
Right.

Speaker 7 (17:47):
That takes care of a lot of it, doesn't it?

Shayna (17:49):
Yes, it does.

(17:50):
Well, maybe you just don't need it.

Speaker 7 (17:50):
Not really.

Shayna (17:52):
Not really.

Speaker 7 (17:54):
I'd like to update my phone though.

Shayna (17:58):
Okay.

Speaker 7 (17:58):
Because I can't do a lot of things on here.

Shayna (18:01):
So you want a new phone?

Speaker 7 (18:02):
Hmm-mm.

Shayna (18:03):
You want an iPhone, or you like Samsung?

Speaker 7 (18:06):
I don't care what it is. I bought this.

Shayna (18:09):
But you know they're different though?

(18:11):
So the difference between Samsung and iPhone is that they have different operating systems. So the iPhone, it looks a little bit different when you turn it on and it works a little differently than the Samsung.

Speaker 7 (18:25):
The Samsung.

Shayna (18:26):
But maybe I can get you a newer Samsung?

Speaker 7 (18:30):
Should I call AT&T? I've had this for a long time. You think they'd give me any kind of deal?

Shayna (18:36):
They might.

(18:37):
How about on Thursday when I see you next we'll call them?

Speaker 7 (18:41):
Okay.

Shayna (18:42):
And we'll see if we can get a deal on a new one.

Speaker 7 (18:45):
Because I've had ... It's the only one I've had.

Shayna (18:49):
No, you've had other phones.

Speaker 7 (18:51):
Oh, I did. I had a small one.

Shayna (18:53):
Yeah.

Speaker 7 (18:54):
A little red one or something.

Shayna (18:56):
Hmm-mm.

Speaker 7 (18:57):
You're right.

Shayna (18:58):
Yeah.

(19:00):
Okay. Well, thank you for talking to me about the internet.

Speaker 7 (19:06):
You ain't learned nothing from me. Not a thing.

Shayna (19:14):
No, it's been great. It's been wonderful to hear how you think about the internet.

Speaker 7 (19:18):
Yeah.

Shayna (19:20):
So I appreciate it. Thank you.

(19:24):
BCC is supported by the Internet Society Foundation.