



Fit the Fourth

A13: What Happens When the Universe Doesn't Make Sense: Douglas Adams



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Course outline

Date	Topic
9/12	The early life and pre-Hitch-Hiker's work of Douglas Adams The radio series that changed everything: In 1978, BBC airs the Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy.
9/19	The books that followed. We'll look at each of the first three books of the trilogy.
9/26	The remaining books of the trilogy, plus Dirk Gently, and other fun stuff
10/3	How Adams dealt with fame and the demands to keep writing, including video game, scientific travel, and the Internet
10/10	The final bits. Late-life and posthumous works and legacy.



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More about how Adams dealt with fame and the demands to keep writing and doing things



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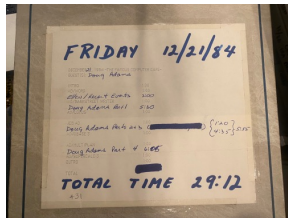
Douglas Adams on science writing



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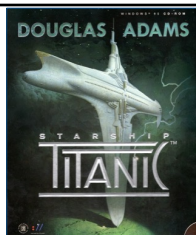
The Famous Computer Cafe 1984-12-21 Douglas Adams and Steve Meretzky.



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Starship Titanic

"The ship that cannot possibly, er, go wrong."



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Starship Titanic



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Douglas with his daughter, Polly, in 1994



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Douglas Adams, a Man of Thirty Guitars



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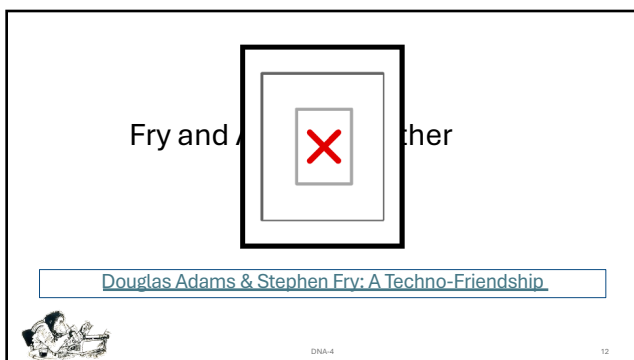
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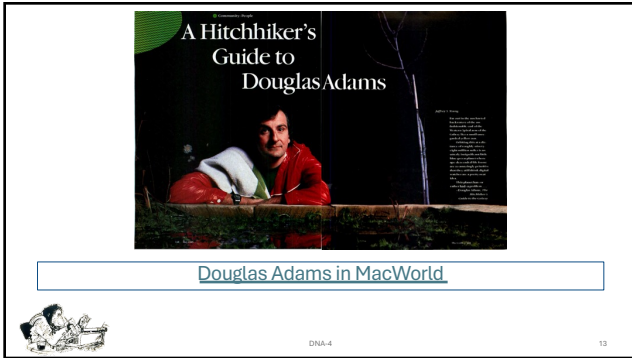
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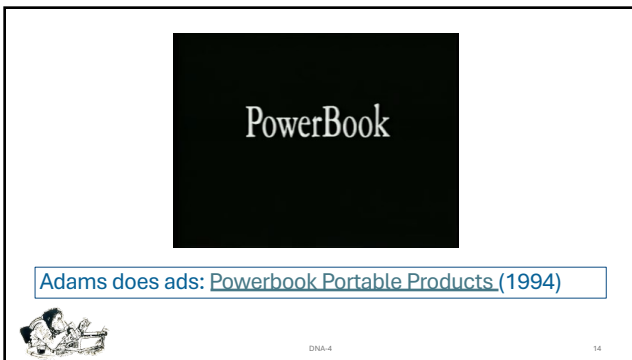
Douglas Adams in MacWorld



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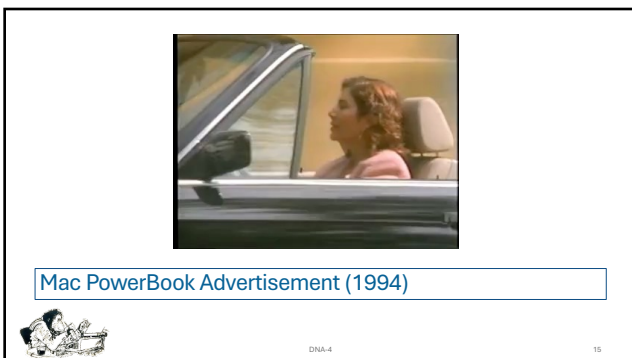
Adams does ads: Powerbook Portable Products (1994)



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Mac PowerBook Advertisement (1994)



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Asked ChatGPT to explain photo transfer and camera type



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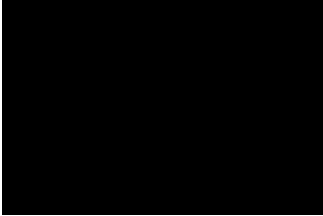
How ChatGPT explained what was going on

- How the transfer works
 - That gesture is demonstrating infrared (IR) file transfer.
 - PowerBooks of the mid-1990s (notably the PowerBook 5300 and PowerBook 190) came with an iDA/iRTalk infrared port.
 - Several digital cameras of the same period supported iDA. You would align the camera's IR window with the PowerBook's, and the photo could be "beamed" over — much like how PalmPilot's exchanged contacts a few years later.
 - This was a slow transfer (tens of kilobits per second), so usually just one photo or a thumbnail demo would be shown in promotional videos.
- The camera model
 - From the styling in your clip — small brick-like body, silver/gray facelate, rounded top, with the lens offset left — it matches the Kodak DC40 (1995) or its successor the Kodak DC50 (1996). Both were among the first consumer digital cameras marketed heavily with Macintosh compatibility, and both offered iDA transfer to PowerBooks.
 - The DC40 was bundled with Apple software and often shown in Apple ads and demos.
 - The DC50 added a zoom lens but kept the same overall design.
- Summary
 - Transfer method: Infrared (iDA/iRTalk) between the camera and the PowerBook.
 - Camera model shown: A Kodak DC40 (most likely) or possibly the closely related DC50



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DNA's Three Rules



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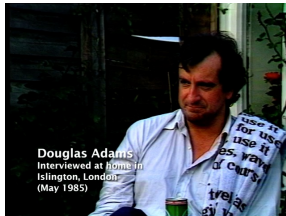
Adams with Steve Meretzky and the 1984 Mac



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Douglas Adams
Interviewed at home in
Islington, London
(May 1985)

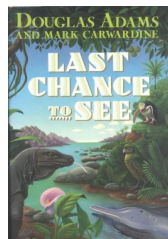
Douglas Adams on the Aye-Aye, 1985.



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[Last Chance to See](#) (Wikipedia link)



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Parrots, the universe and everything



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Going back in time



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Douglas Adams: The Sentient Puddle (1998)



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Douglas Adams & Michio Kaku. 1990



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Douglas Adams & Michio Kaku – Comedy and Science



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Hyperland (1989) – Imagining the WorldWide Web



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Douglas Adams – Big Thinkers (2001)

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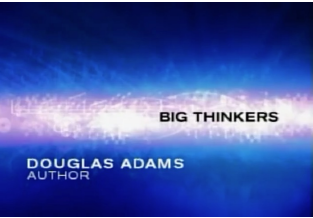
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Douglas on Who is Douglas Adams?

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Douglas thinks about the Internet

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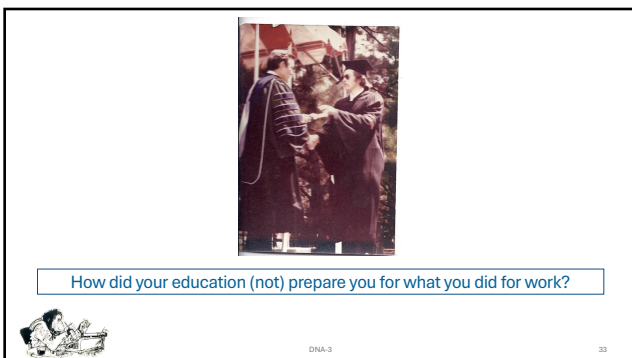
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