

Press Release

London, UK – January 9th 2012

On Tuesday 10th January, Donald Ervin Knuth, the American computing pioneer and author of the classic *The Art of Computer Programming*, celebrates his 74th birthday. Four years ago, Knuth set aside a couple of days to record, in great depth, the story of his life and work for posterity. You can watch the recording in its entirety, free of charge, at <http://webofstories.com>, a huge online archive of video stories told by many of the most creative minds of our time - great scientists like Knuth, as well as outstanding artists, filmmakers, writers and poets.

As with all Web of Stories contributors, the 7.5 hours of Knuth's recording are divided into a number of short stories of between two and ten minutes, with a fully searchable transcript. In one of the stories, Knuth talks about why he decided to write *The Art of Computer Programming*:

“My original motivation for writing it was not only that I liked the idea of writing books, but because I could see a big need for such a book. There was nothing like it.”

Looking back at his original plan for the book he says:

*“So we set up a plan... to publish *The Art of Computer Programming* in seven volumes. And that plan... is still officially there, but three volumes have been in print now for more than 30 years, and I'm working on Volume Four.”*

All the videos of Donald Knuth are easy to share with friends and are also free for embedding into personal blogs and websites.

<http://www.webofstories.com/play/17060>

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www.webofstories.com

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NOTES TO EDITOR

About Web of Stories:

Everyone has a story to tell. Over time many stories become forgotten, but now Web of Stories offers members of the public the chance to tell their stories for future generations to enjoy.

Web of Stories began as an archive of life stories told by some of the great scientists of our time. As the number of stories grew, it became obvious that some were on related topics and a web was slowly being created of connected stories. After a while we also invited famous people outside the field of science to tell their life stories.

Web of Stories is also open to the public to record their stories for the world to view and share. The project is built on the belief that we all have wonderful stories to share, and have family and friends whose tales we would like to hear. The great thing about Web of Stories is that anyone can come and talk about virtually anything they like. Just like our famous speakers, it is an account of their experiences as they remember them.

We hope to provide lasting, first-hand accounts of people's experiences – imagine that in a hundred years' time your grandchildren or great grandchildren will be able to watch you telling stories about your life today!

Contact:

For more information on Web of Stories or any other video interview with Web of Stories please contact the Press Desk on +44(0)20 7323 0323 or email press@webofstories.com

Science Navigation Group, Web of Stories, Middlesex House, 34-42 Cleveland Street, London W1T 4LB



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