

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 116: What if Fred licked the internet?](#)

File Length: 00:17:48

Transcription by Keffy

[Rising harp scales followed by the What If World theme song.]

Lyrics: What if kittens played the glockenspiel? And what if unicorns were real? What if you could fly or travel back in time, we welcome you to What If World. What If World. This is What If World.

[Gentle bell music.]

Mr. Eric: Hey there folks and welcome back to *What If World*, the show where your questions and ideas inspire off-the-cuff stories. I'm Mr. Eric, your host, and today we've got a question from Mara.

Mara: My name is Mara and I like JF Kat and my what if question is what if Fred the dog rode on a rainbow?

Mr. Eric: Oh, that's perfect. Since many of you Americans will have just celebrated St. Patrick's Day.

Now, I was recently lucky enough to run into a pair of patrons named Caleb and James and James really, really wanted me to answer the question, what if Fred the dog and Pipey-O went into the internet. So I'm gonna combine that question with Mara's.

JF Kitty: Just hold the microphone there one minute.

Mr. Eric: Oh, hi, JF Kat. I assume you and Fred are gonna fight for shout-outs again.

JF Kitty: Not today. Today all the meowing out will be mine.

Mr. Eric: Oh, congratulations—

JF Kitty: First, there's a family, big brother Grady, middle sister Clara and little brother Theo.

Mr. Eric: Oh, I know them. They know lots of cool facts about animals.

JF Kitty: But I'm not finished!

Mr. Eric: You've still got more shout-outs?

JF Kitty: All the shout outs, Mr. Eric! I've got a big meow to give to Eva. She told her besties Maddy and Gilligan about the show and now they all listen together.

Mr. Eric: Wow, you got six shout-outs today to six awesome kids.

JF Kitty: That's right, and you didn't get any.

Mr. Eric: That's okay, sometimes I need a break.

JF Kitty: Not me. I could keep meowing forever. Thank you Grady, Clara, Theo, Eva, and besties Maddy and Gilligan.

Mr. Eric: Yes, thank you all. And now, let's find out what if Fred the Dog rode a rainbow and what if Fred and Pipey-O went into the internet?

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Fred the Dog, President of What If World, was taking a well-deserved rest inside the What House. Now, if you ever heard episode 61, what if Abacus and JF Kat drank a potion at the same time and switched minds, well then, you'd know that the What House is really just a simple door standing in the middle of a grassy clearing. But through that door is a wide, beautiful wooden house that Fred gets to call home.

Fred the Dog: Oh, it's such a beautiful morning.

Mr. Eric: Said Fred. His voice sounds a little different from most people's because his tongue is too long for his mouth.

Fred the Dog: I love living in this big house made up of all these sticks for me to chew on.

Mr. Eric: And when he finished chewing on that stick, he looked up to see that there was no house around him.

Fred the Dog: Uh-oh, I must have gone back through the secret door somehow and ended up in that field again.

JF Kitty: No, Fred, you've been ignoring me for the past three weeks.

Fred the Dog: Well, that doesn't sound like me. I mean, unless I was chewing a really good stick.

JF Kitty: You chewed away the entire What House!

[Record scratch.]

- Mr. Eric: Shouted JF Kat, pointing around with a black and white paw.
- Fred the Dog: Oh, floop.
- Mr. Eric: Said Fred, looking around to see that all that was left of the beautiful wooden house was a few loose wires and a few metal pipes sticking out of the ground.
- Fred the Dog: Well, what are you doing here anyway? I'm president, now.
- JF Kitty: They asked me to help you snap out of it while they've been running What If World.
- Fred the Dog: Okay, well, I snap out of it now. Although, I would really like another stick.
- Mr. Eric: And Fred went over to one of the pipes sticking out of the ground.
- Fred the Dog: Oh, this pipe has some dirt on it and it smelly really bad. It's almost as good as a stick.
- JF Kitty: Fred! For meowing out loud!
- Pipey-O : Hey, quit chewing on my magical sewer pipe!
- Mr. Eric: A voice echoed from inside the pipe. Fred leapt back in alarm.
- Fred the Dog: Hey, what are you doing in the What House?
- Pipey-O : Hey, what are you doing chewing my pipe?
- Mr. Eric: Said Pipey-O, and the little sewer wizard suddenly stretched out of the pipe, plopping down in his purple overalls and wielding his wand-wrench warily.
- Pipey-O : Step away from my magical pipe.
- JF Kitty: Oh, wait. You're a wizard. You can rebuild this house for us.
- Fred the Dog: I don't know, I kind of like the open air concept.
- Mr. Eric: And just like that, it started to rain.

Fred the Dog: Oh, I love the rain. I love the smell of it and the way it makes me wet so I can roll in mud, and the way it makes everybody smell just a little damper and a little stinkier.

JF Kitty: Well, your administration can't work in the rain.

Fred the Dog: Oh, that's a good point. Okay, we build a house and then I go out to play in the rain later.

Pipey-O : I'm sorry, Fred, but I don't have those kind of powers outside of the InterWhat.

JF Kitty: Fred, the InterWhat's not gonna help you, we've got to rebuild this house right here and now.

Pipey-O : But in the InterWhat, you build a thousand houses. In like a day.

Fred the Dog: Oh, that sounds a lot easier, yeah.

JF Kitty: But Fred, I thought you were supposed to be a smarter president than me!

Fred the Dog: Yes, I'm very smart. That's why I go to the InterWhat and I come back with a better What House than ever.

Mr. Eric: The rainwater had filled up one of the sewer pipes right to brimming, and as the rain died down and the drizzle dried up, Pipey-O wielded his wand and a perfect, bright-colored rainbow stretched right out of the pipe.

Fred the Dog: Oh, and I get to ride a pretty rainbow!

JF Kitty: That's not a real rainbow! It's just an InterWhainbow!

Fred the Dog: Yeah, but the colors are so much brighter than a normal rainbow.

Pipey-O : Fred, you got to ride the rainbow now before it disappears.

Fred the Dog: Oh, yeah!

Mr. Eric: The rainbow seemed to be getting sucked inside the pipe, so Fred lashed out with his tongue at the last second, grabbing the edge of that colorful bow, and—

Fred the Dog: Let's go!

Mr. Eric: He and Pipey-O sped down the pipe, leaving JF Kat alone in the damp field.

Fred the Dog: Whoa, my fur is so smooth and pixelated.

Pipey-O : Yeah, you're like a digital dog now.

Mr. Eric: Fred and Pipey-O were in a wide-open space. There was no floor or ceiling. There were no walls or air. There was no up or down.

Fred the Dog: Oh, this is weird.

Pipey-O : Oh, sorry, you cannot conceive pure interformation.

Fred the Dog: Interformation?

Pipey-O : Like the data.

Fred the Dog: The dada?

Pipey-O : No, the data! The data!

Fred the Dog: I don't... dadadada...

Pipey-O : Oh, forget about it.

Mr. Eric: Pipey-O flicked his wand and stone blocks started appearing under their feet and beyond them stretched perfectly smooth hills, one little green semi-circle after another.

Fred the Dog: Wow, you really can do anything here.

Pipey-O : Yeah, I'm a pretty big deal on the InterWhat.

Mr. Eric: As Fred looked around, perfect, cylindrical tree trunks sprouted up from the ground, each big, brown trunk topped with a fluffy cloud of green.

Fred the Dog: That's what trees are like here? They don't look dirty or different. They don't even have a good stick smell.

Mr. Eric: But Fred approached a tree anyway, when suddenly—a big, bear-like creature appeared out of nowhere. It had a cute, furry face, but was wielding a massive club.

Bear Creature: If you want this forest, you have to go through me.

Fred the Dog: Oh, you, oh, excuse me. Sir, I just need some trees so I can rebuild the What House. See, I president, and—

Bear Creature: If you want this forest, you'll have to go through me.

Fred the Dog: I mean, you're a very big boy. I don't think that I can go through you, so I was hoping just go around.

Mr. Eric: Fred walked over to a different tree and an exact duplicate of that bear-like creature appeared!

Bear-Creature: If you want to get this forest-tree, you'll have to go through me.

Fred the Dog: That's what the other guy said.

Mr. Eric: And then he tried another tree.

Bear-Creature: If you want a tree, you have to go through me.

Fred the Dog: At least you're being succinct...

Mr. Eric: No matter which tree he tried, another of these monsters appeared.

Pipey-O : Oh, sorry. Sometimes you gotta defeat a monster in order to get a resource.

Fred the Dog: Oh, my goodness.

Mr. Eric: And Fred tried to stretch his tongue around the nearest monster.

Bear Creature: If you want to have this—oh! What is that? [Record scratch.] I'm a digital creation, I shouldn't be able to feel and smell this thinky, gross tongue!

Mr. Eric: The bear-like monster dropped his club and ran off into the woods.

Fred the Dog: Oh, excuse me. I guess I still have a little bit of the zombie dog breath.

Mr. Eric: And as fred stretched his tongue out towards the tree, all the other bear monsters caught a whiff and retreated.

Bear Creatures: AAAAH! Aaaah! AAAA.

Fred the Dog: Wow, with this many trees, I can build a bigger, better What House than ever!

Mr. Eric: And Fred started grabbing one tree after another with his big long tongue.

Fred the Dog: Ugh, guh! These taste like zeroes and ones.

Pipey-O : Don't worry! They don't need to taste or smell like nothing because once you build it, it stays up forever.

Fred the Dog: Oh, if you say so.

Mr. Eric: Fred started making piles of digital trees. Seeing that the wooden clubs were a darker color brown, Fred started grabbing those up, too.

Fred the Dog: Maybe these will taste better because those bears were holding them. Bears are usually very stinky... aww.

Mr. Eric: But the clubs just tasted like zeroes and ones, too.

Fred the Dog: You mean zeroes and ones also.

Mr. Eric: Yeah, Fred. Zeroes and ones, too.

Fred the Dog: Zeroes and twelves.

Mr. Eric: No, zeroes and... Fred! You know what I mean. They just tasted like binary.

Fred the Dog: Oh, well. At least it'll be the biggest, sturdiest InterWhat House ever.

Mr. Eric: And as Fred finished gathering all the trees and clubs and he and Pipey-O started building up a brand new What House... it started to, I guess, rain?

Fred the Dog: Why do these shining lines keep hitting me?

Pipey-O : I thought you loved the rain.

Fred the Dog: It don't feel like rain. It don't smell like rain.

Pipey-O : It's the InterWain.

Fred the Dog: Aww... it just don't feel right. But maybe chewing on an all wet stick will make me feel better. [Gnaws]

Mr. Eric: And the stick disappeared.

Fred the Dog: Oh, what just happened?

Pipey-O : Oh, you collected a resource.

Fred the Dog: I don't want to collect a resource, I want to eat a food.

Pipey-O : Oh, don't worry. You don't need eat a food until your life bar get low.

Fred the Dog: Oh, fine. Let's just finish building the house.

Mr. Eric: And so they did, building out block after block to make the biggest What House ever.

Fred the Dog: Uh, it kind of look a little square.

Pipey-O : Well, here you can make it look like a rectangle or a square. Or a square with a rectangle on top. Or a square with a triangle on top. The combinations are finite and few.

Fred the Dog: Oh, okay. Well, how do I get all that I'm here to work?

Mr. Eric: And with a twist of Pipey-O's wand, the rain died down again and out stretched another perfectly colorful, perfectly curved rainbow.

Fred the Dog: Don't that rainbow look a lot like the last one?

Pipey-O : It is the last one. Now they just got to upload the avatars and they can come here any time they want.

Mr. Eric: The first avatar to arrive was JF Kat. He was black and white and perfectly smooth.

Fred the Dog: Jojo? Why aren't you fluffy no more?

JF Kitty: This is just my InterWhat avatar. It's not really me. Are you ready to get out of here?

Fred the Dog: But aren't you impressed how quickly I build this house?

JF Kitty: You've been gone for three days!

Fred the Dog: Oh, really? It doesn't feel like that long.

Pipey-O : That's because you've been having so much fun.

Fred the Dog: Have I been?

Pipey-O : With all your favorite things, Fred. All the sticks you ever want. It can rain or shine whenever you please. Your friends can come from all over the world to visit.

Fred the Dog: That's true. I didn't realize how lonely I've been, JF Kat. Give me a big hug.

JF Kitty: Well, okay, but...



Mr. Eric: But when Fred hugged JF Kat, he couldn't feel his kitty fur, or smell his kitty smells.

Fred the Dog: Jojo, that's not a good cuddle.

JF Kitty: Of course, not!

Pipey-O : Yeah, the InterWhat cannot convey the subtleties of existence. I thought you knew that.

JF Kitty: Although, for some reason, I can still smell you. Gah!

Mr. Eric: And JF Kat backed away from Freddy's hug.

Fred the Dog: That's it. What House or no, I don't think I want to stay here any longer.

Pipey-O : Okay, my friend. You're free to go.

Mr. Eric: But as Fred tried to force his way back towards the rainbow, a big, talking wall appeared in front of him.

Wall: Are you sure you want to leave?

Fred the Dog: Yes.

Wall: Select no or definitely not.

Fred the Dog: No, yes.

Wall: You selected no. You can stay.

Fred the Dog: No, I want to go.

Wall: You selected no, again.

Fred the Dog: N... I mean yes.

Wall: You selected definitely no.

Fred the Dog: Okay, you want me to stay. I guess I'll just give you a big kiss.

Wall: No, not necessar—oh UGH.

Mr. Eric: And as Fred licked the brick wall, it disappeared. He had almost reached the rainbow when a cute little, perfectly smooth pug appeared in front of him.

Pug: You don't want to go. You just want to play a different game. This one you collect all the cutest dogs in the whole What IfVerse.

Fred the Dog: Sorry, I just want to get back to my friends, now.

JF Kitty: Oh, but that pug's even cuter than you!

Fred the Dog: That's low, JF Kat.

Mr. Eric: And JF Kat started pawing at the pug.

Pug: Oh, you are so cute! You can collect all of the puppies and they will you forever.

Fred the Dog: No, they can't love you. They not real.

JF Kitty: I don't care anymore. They're just too cute.

Mr. Eric: And as JF Kat pawed at the puppy, more and more dogs of every kind appeared behind it, filling up the What House and blocking out sight of the rainbow all together. Fred tried using his stinky breath to scare away the dogs, but there were just too many of them.

Fred the Dog: Pipey-O, you got to help me get out of here.

Pipey-O : I'm not gonna listen to you. These puppies are so much cuter.

Fred the Dog: Oh, that's it! Nobody cuter than Fred the Dog.

Mr. Eric: And Fred stretched his tongue in and out and around the entire house, pulling all the sticks apart with one tug.

Fred the Dog: GOANGE-IT

Mr. Eric: Said Fred, throwing thousands of sticks clear across the interwhat.

Dogs: Woof woof! Oh a stick!

Mr. Eric: And all the digital dogs took after the sticks.

JF Kitty: Wait, where are you going!

Pipey-O : Oh no, let's follow the cute puppies!

Mr. Eric: JF Kat and Pipey-O tried to follow the dogs deeper down the InterWhat.

Fred the Dog: I'm sorry you two. It's for your own good.

Mr. Eric: And Fred wrapped his stinky tongue around his two friends.

JF Kitty: Oh, it's so slimy! How is it so slimy?

Pipey-O : I cannot take another second!

Mr. Eric: The rainbow was starting to disappear and Fred leapt with his two friends in tow... or tongue, I suppose, scrambling up onto the edge of the rainbow as it took them up and out of the InterWhat.

JF Kitty: That was so gross.

Pipey-O : Thank goodness it started raining again to wash away the smell.

Fred the Dog: You two should be thankful that my stinkiness transcends dimensions or else we might all be stuck there forever.

JF Kitty: I guess you're right.

Pipey-O : How can we ever repay you?

Fred the Dog: Well, first, you can help me find some sticks.

JF Kitty: Here we go again.

Fred the Dog: I mean, to help rebuild the What House.

JF Kitty: Maybe we should make it from something other than sticks.

Pipey-O : I know where we can find a lot of bricks.

Fred the Dog: Yeah, but you don't mean the InterWhat, do you?

Pipey-O : Okay, yeah, I don't know where we find bricks.

JF Kitty: Maybe we can make some out of mud?

Fred the Dog: Oh, mud bricks? What a perfect idea. The richest mud bricks.

JF Kitty: Purrfect.

Pipey-O : Here we Pipey-go!

Mr. Eric: The end.

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric:

All right Mara and James, I hope you enjoyed your story. I'd like to thank Karen O'Keeffe, my co-creator, Craig Martinson for our theme song, my cousin Mike, his wife, Jess, and my brother-in-law Chris for talking up this show before anyone had ever heard of it. And all you kids at home who know that no internet game can replace the experiences you make for yourself in What Is World.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme plays.]

©2019, Eric O'Keeffe/What If World