GDC 14

'NUFF SAID

COMICS AS DESIGN DOCUMENTATION

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GAME DEVELOPERS CONFERENCE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
MARCH 17–21, 2014
EXPO DATES: MARCH 19–21
2014

ROCK BAND 2

RBN
ROCK BAND NETWORK

CHROMA

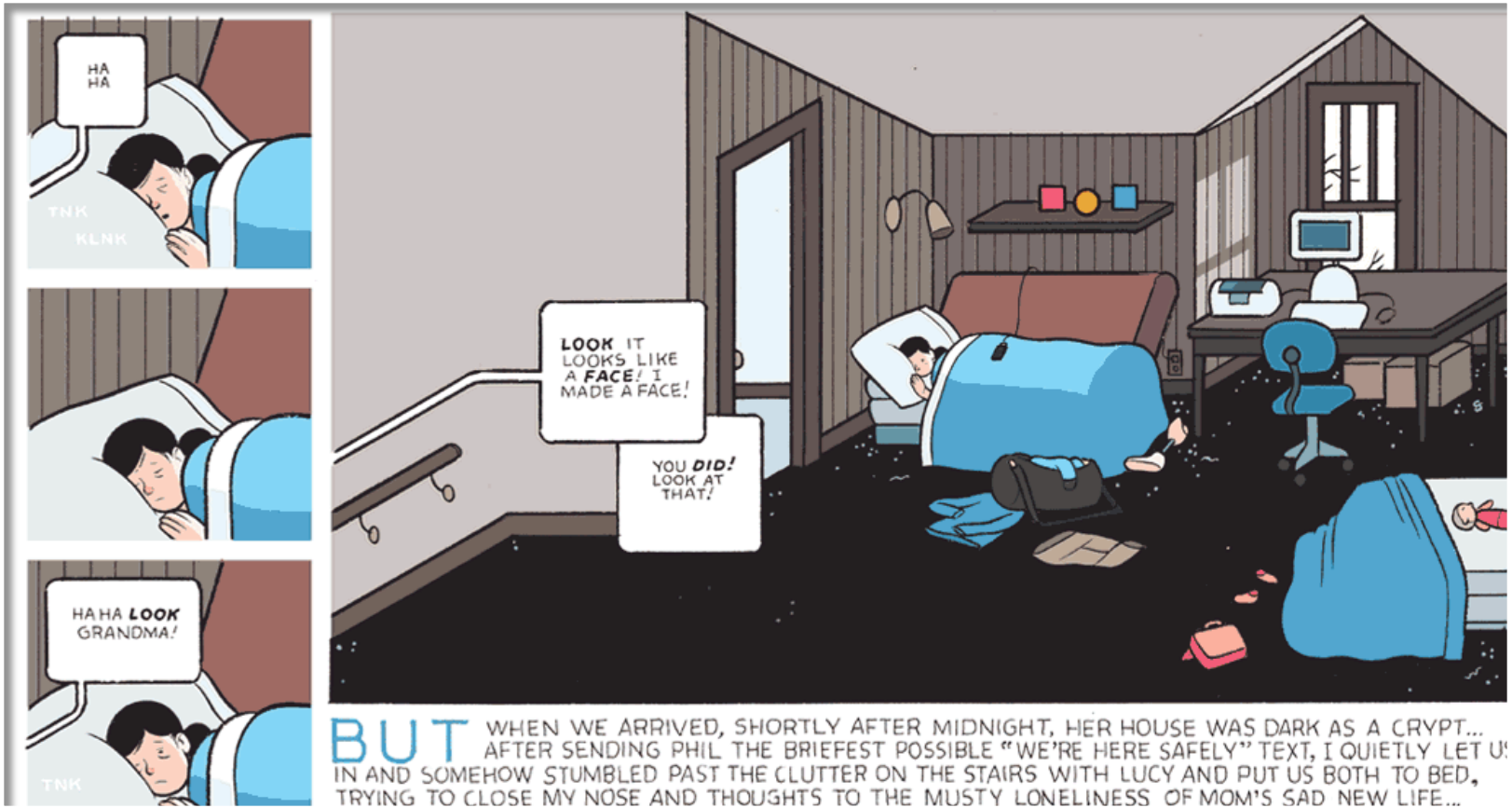
ROCK BAND 3

Disney
FANTASIA

PER ANGUSTA AD AUGUSTA

WHAT'D YOU F...

HERE, CHAVO. LET ME SHOW YOU HOW TO UNDERSTAND COMIC BOOKS.
OK, HERE'S A COMIC ABOUT A SUPER TEAM THAT ARE KIND OF LIKE MONSTERS.
THIS GUY HERE WHO LOOKS THE MOST LIKE A MONSTER IS ACTUALLY A GOOD GUY.
THE THING!



BUT WHEN WE ARRIVED, SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT, HER HOUSE WAS DARK AS A CRYPT... AFTER SENDING PHIL THE BRIEFEST POSSIBLE "WE'RE HERE SAFELY" TEXT, I QUIETLY LET US IN AND SOMEHOW STUMBLED PAST THE CLUTTER ON THE STAIRS WITH LUCY AND PUT US BOTH TO BED, TRYING TO CLOSE MY NOSE AND THOUGHTS TO THE MUSTY LONELINESS OF MOM'S SAD NEW LIFE...

WHY I STARTED USING COMICS
HOW YOU CAN MAKE A COMIC
WHEN TO USE COMICS

WHY I STARTED USING COMICS

Oh yeah! *Operation: Enduring Freedom* is in the house!
Oh yeah! *Operation: Enduring Our Freedom* is in the motherfucking house!
Yes! *Operation: Enduring Our Freedom To Bomb The Living Fuck Out Of You* is in the house!!!

PROCESS
WHEN A PLUGIN COMBINES WITH HTML AND JAVASCRIPT, IT ALL RUNS IN THE SAME PROCESS.
You Tube
IF ANY PART CRASHES OR STARTS CORRUPTING MEMORY, THEY'RE ALL HOSED.
SO I WORKED ON RIPPING PLUGINS OUT OF THE RENDERING PROCESS AND PUTTING THEM IN A SEPARATE PROCESS ALL THEIR OWN.
You Tube

y tried to warn me of my e- vil ways
4x
8x
428,369
4x
4x
6x

CREATORS.ROCKBAND.COM Sign In Register

Songs Creators Forums Docs Blog Downloads

GET YOUR MUSIC IN THE GAME

SIGN UP TODAY

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Attention Bands, Studios, and Labels:
Create. Play. Get Paid.
Join the Rock Band Network Today.

Use our tools to author playable tracks. Upload and submit your tracks for review by the Rock Band Creators community. Approved tracks become available in the Rock Band Network Store,* and you get a cut of every purchase.

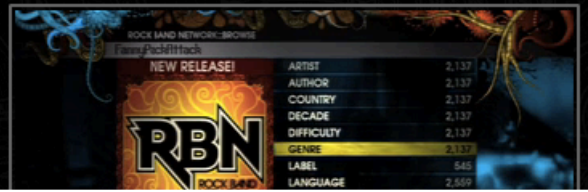
AUTHORING A TRACK →

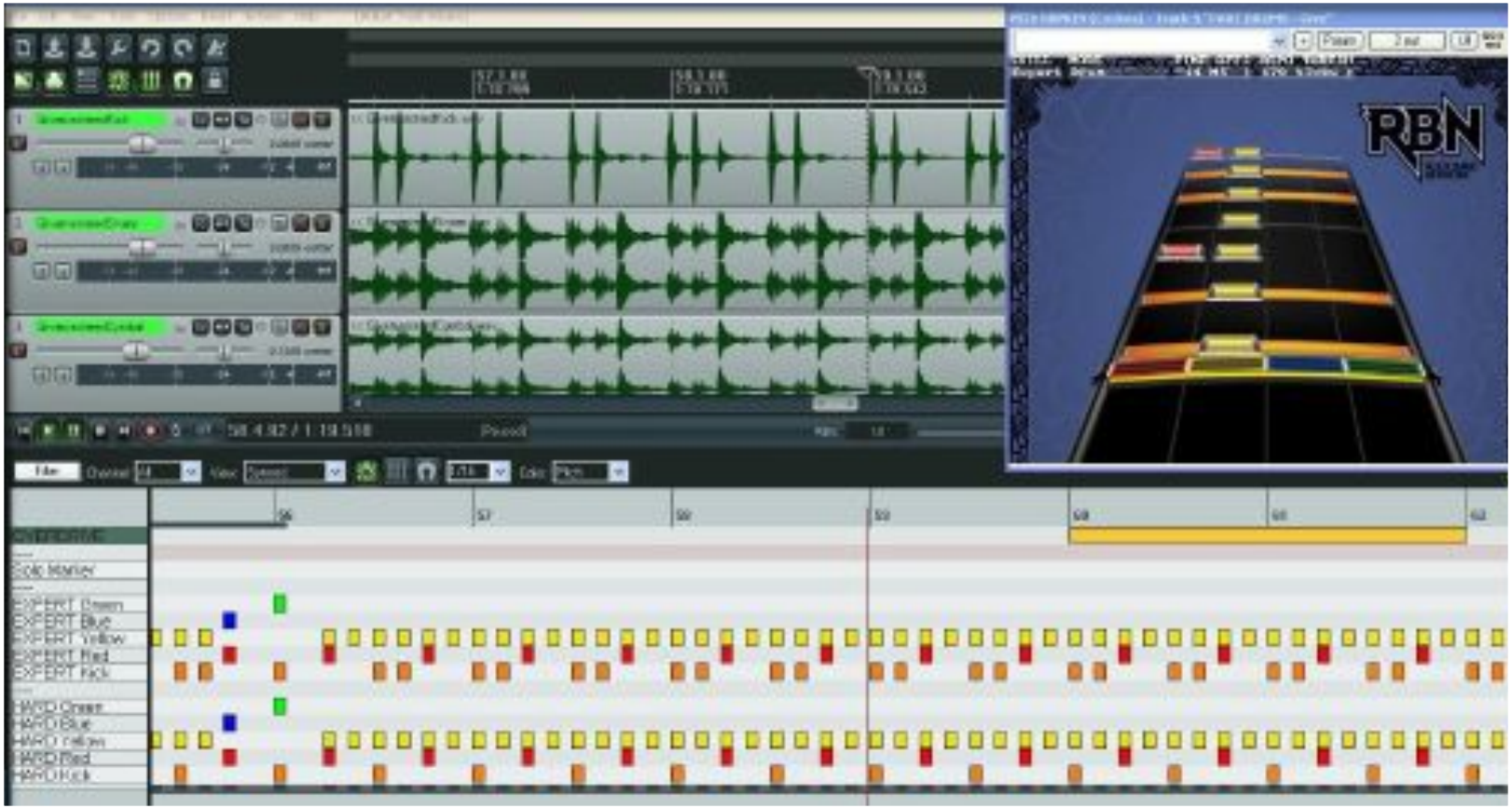
*Select songs may also appear on PS3 and Wii

OVERVIEW | AUTHOR | UPLOAD | REVIEW | PUBLISH | PROMOTE

Not in a Band? You're Still Instrumental!

Even if you're not making your own music, you can be among the first to test out Rock Band Network tracks before they're released. Become a reviewer* and provide valuable feedback to the RBN authoring network for any song in development. Take part in this




RBN
EXPERT Green
EXPERT Blue
EXPERT Yellow
EXPERT Red
EXPERT Kick

MICROSOFT
CONTRAVENTION

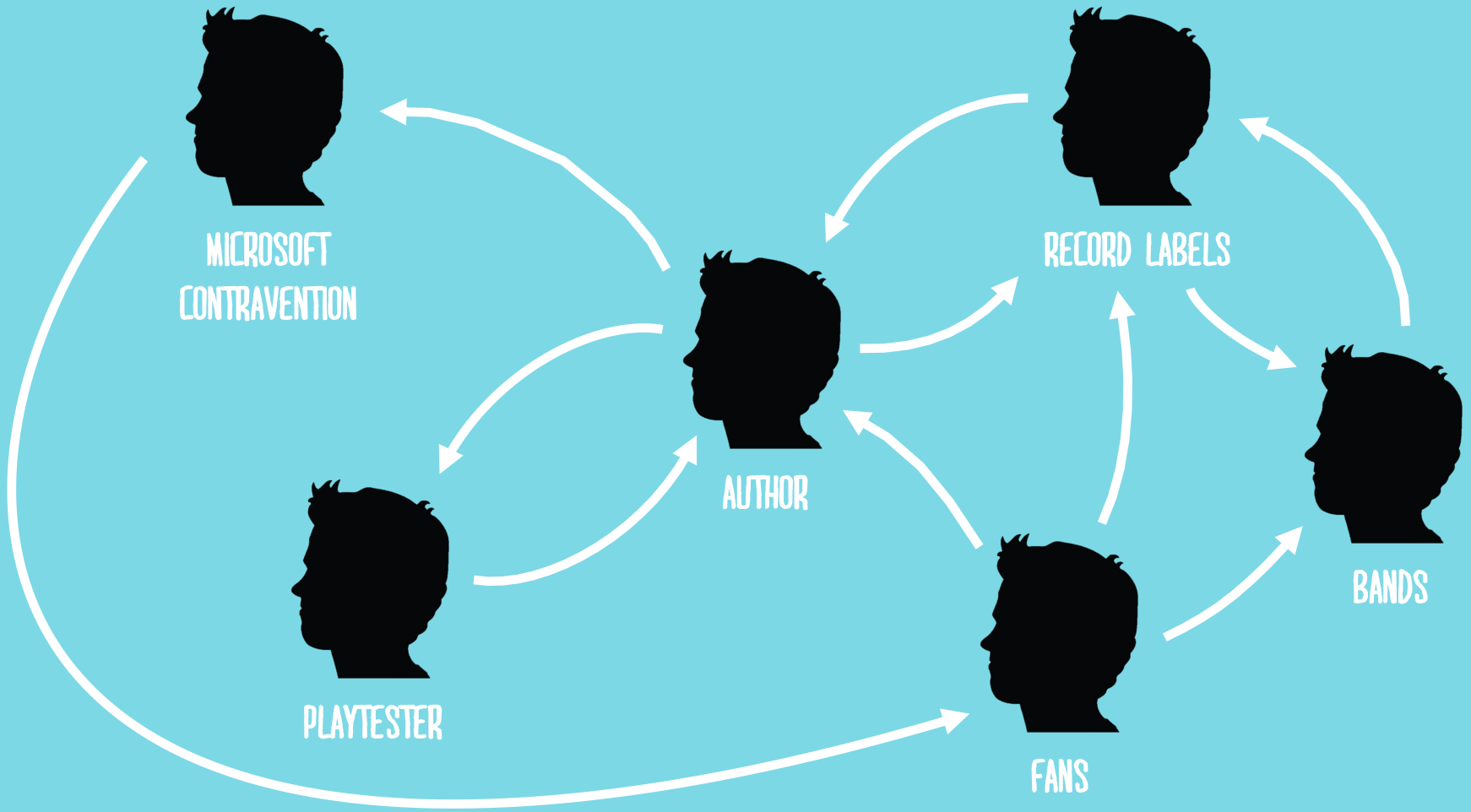
RECORD LABELS

AUTHOR

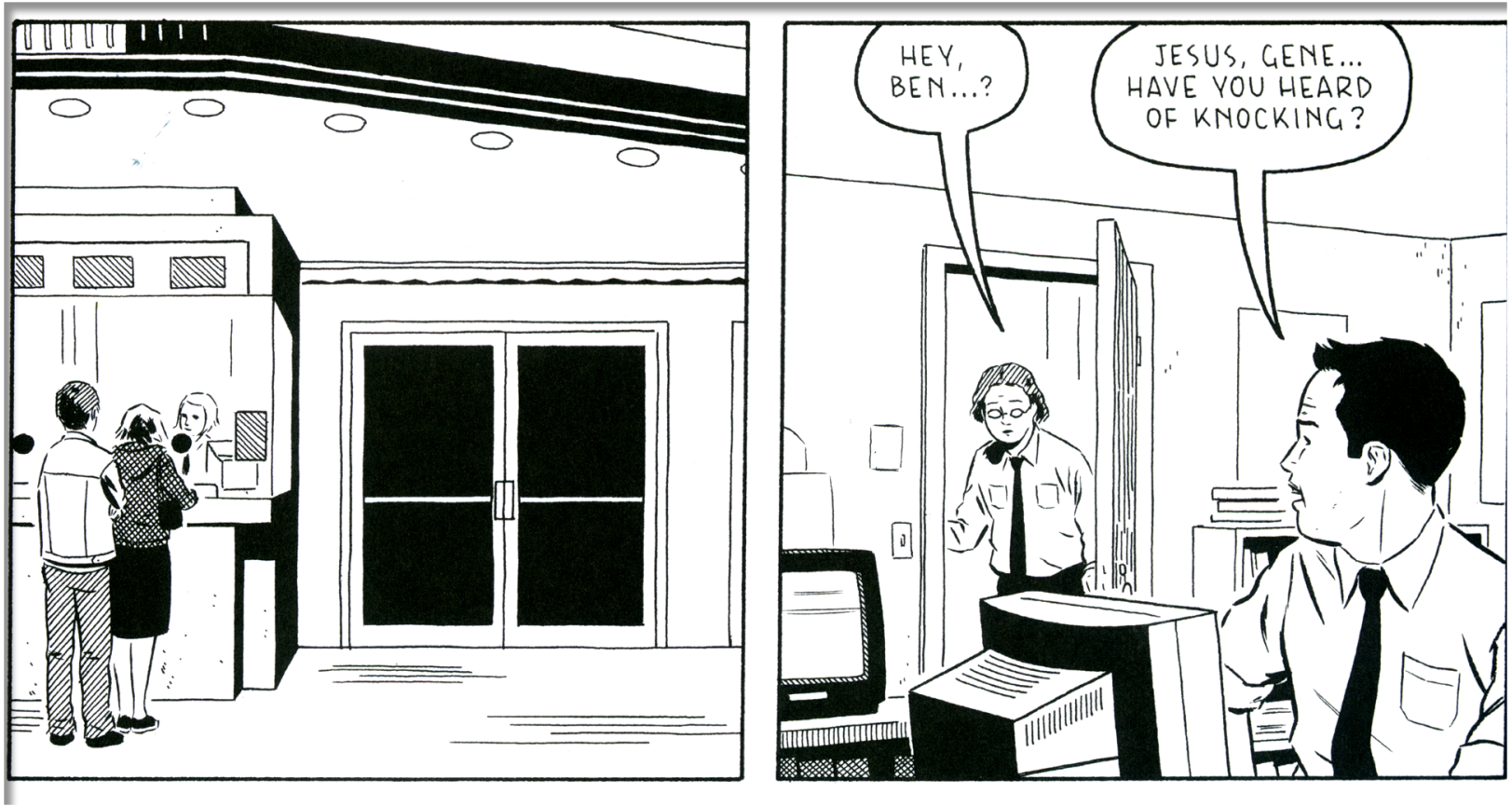
BANDS

PLAYTESTER

FANS

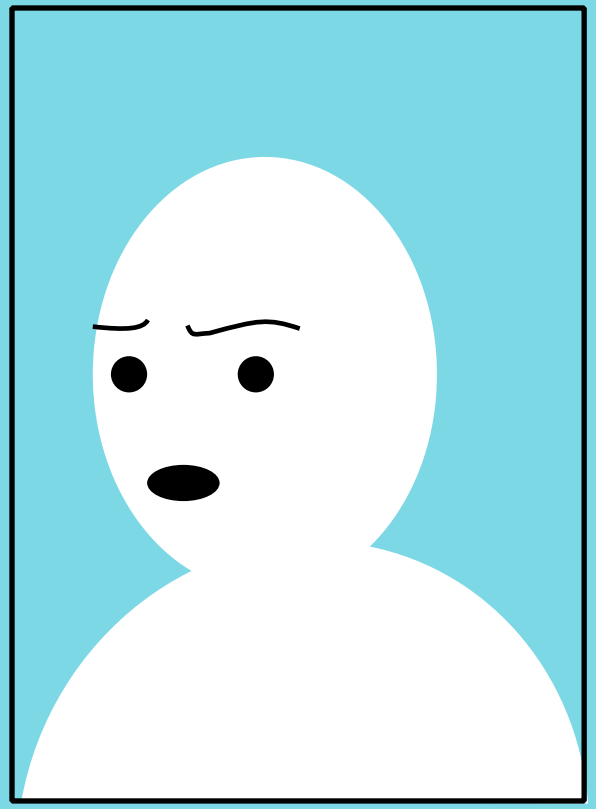

MICROSOFT
CONTRAVENTION
RECORD LABELS
AUTHOR
PLAYTESTER
FANS
BANDS

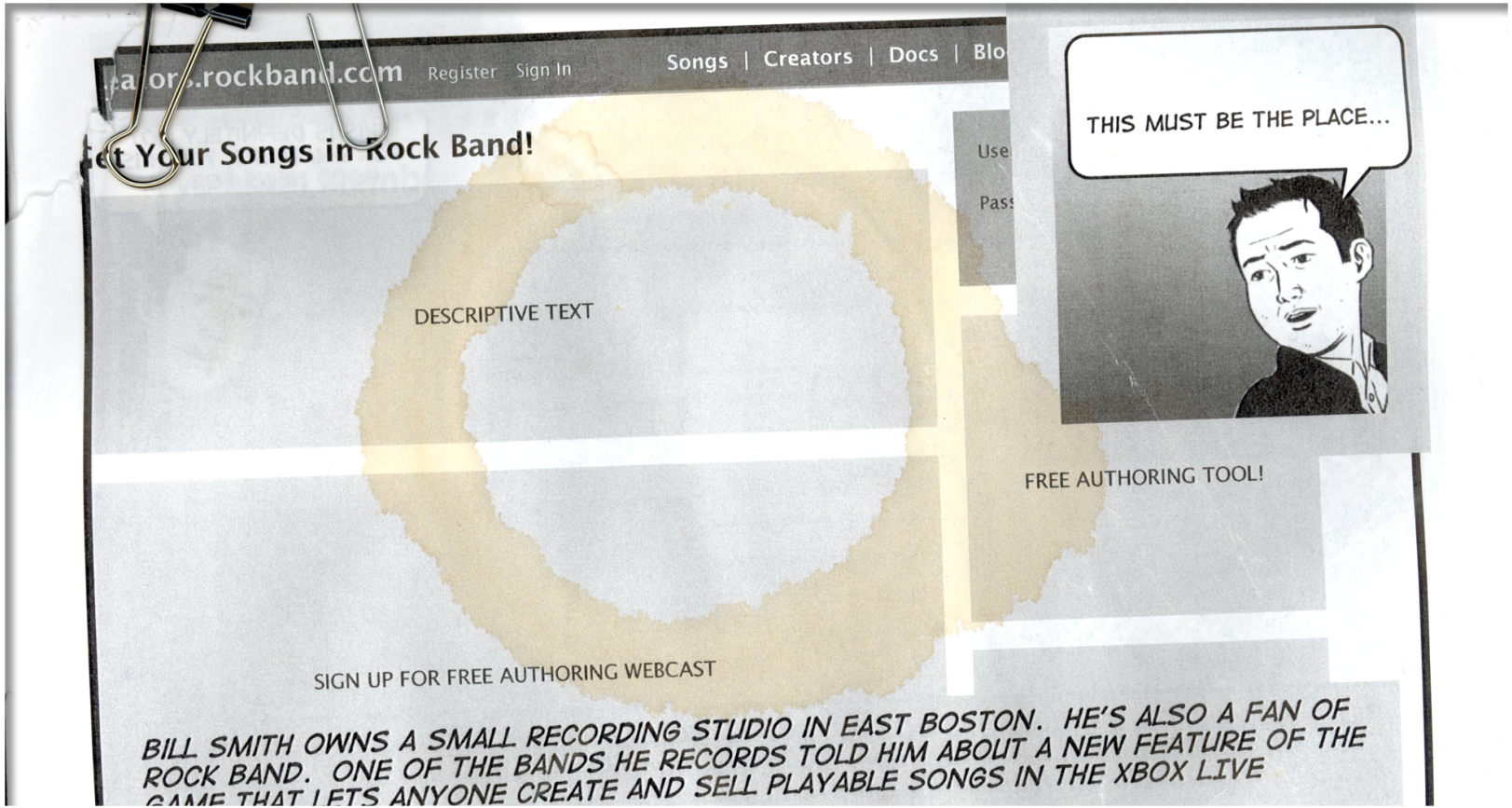
AUTHOR

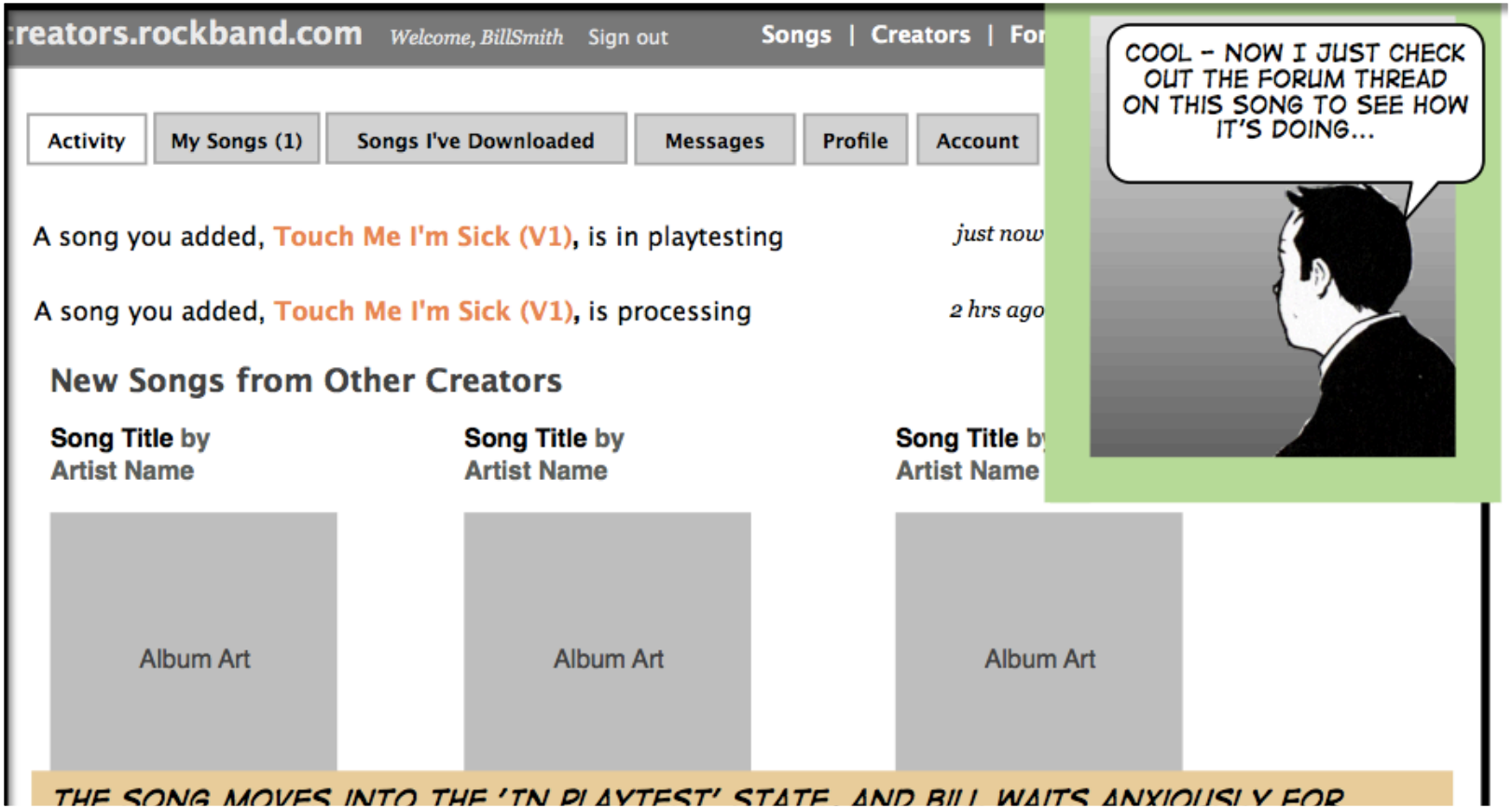

HEY, BEN...?
JESUS, GENE... HAVE YOU HEARD OF KNOCKING?

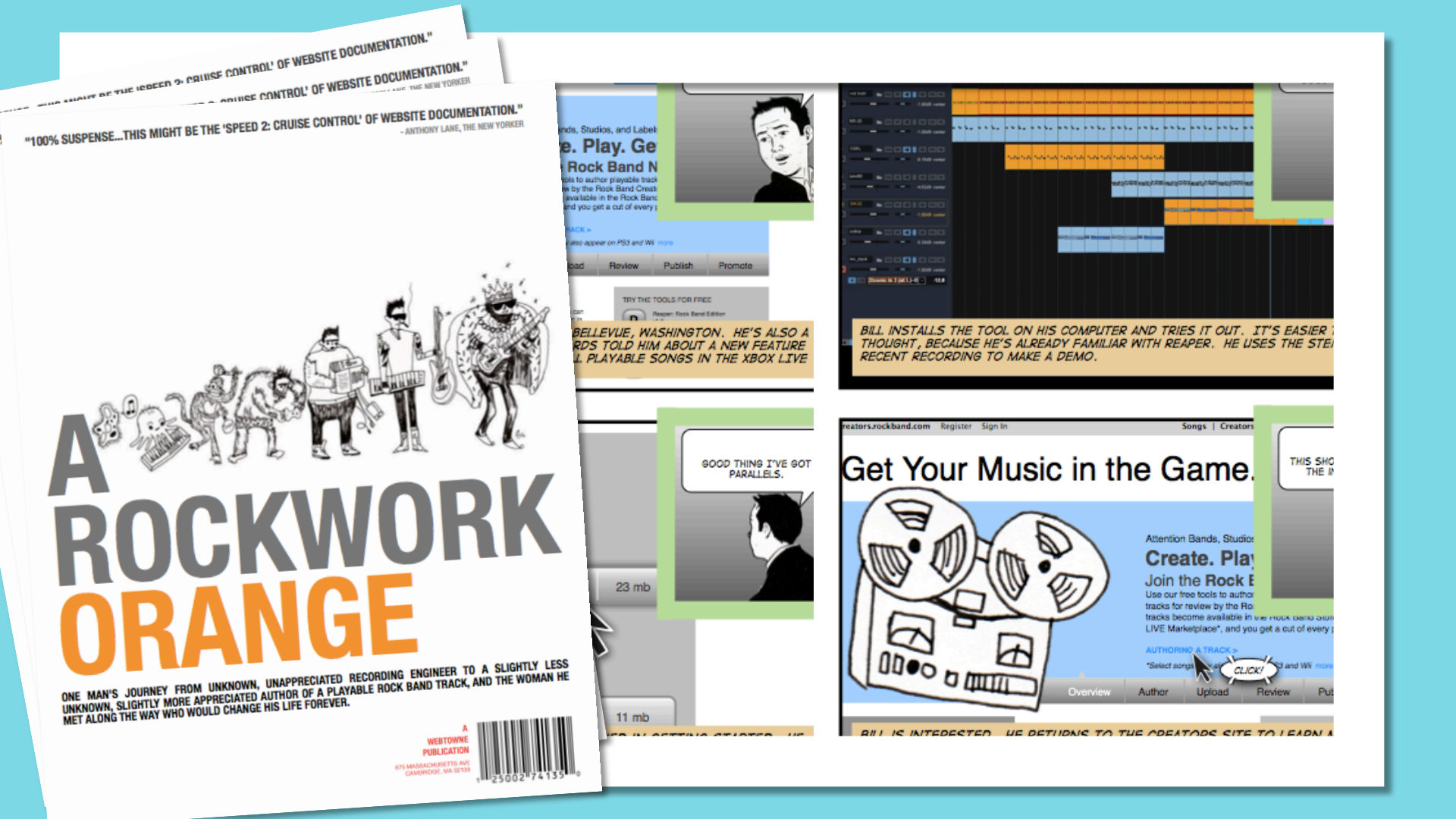
YOU TOO? DOES EVERYONE IN BERKELEY HAVE A TOTAL HARD-ON FOR NEW YORK?
WHY DOESN'T THE ENTIRE BAY AREA JUST PACK UP AND MOVE TO NEW YORK AND GET IT OVER WITH?

YOU TOO? DOES EVERYONE IN BERKELEY HAVE A TOTAL HARD-ON FOR NEW YORK?
WHY DOESN'T THE ENTIRE BAY AREA JUST PACK UP AND MOVE TO NEW YORK AND GET IT OVER WITH?

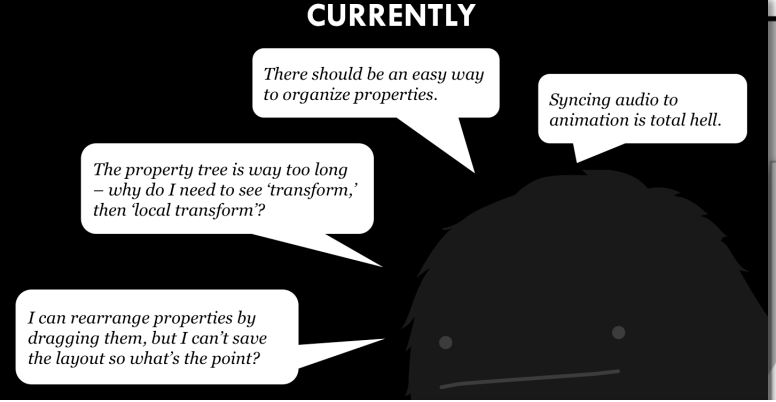



Register Sign In
Songs | Creators | Docs | Blo
Your Songs in Rock Band!
DESCRIPTIVE TEXT
SIGN UP FOR FREE AUTHORING WEBCAST
THIS MUST BE THE PLACE...
FREE AUTHORING TOOL!
BILL SMITH OWNS A SMALL RECORDING STUDIO IN EAST BOSTON. HE'S ALSO A FAN OF ROCK BAND. ONE OF THE BANDS HE RECORDS TOLD HIM ABOUT A NEW FEATURE OF THE


creators.rockband.com
Welcome, BillSmith
Sign out
Songs | Creators | For
Activity
My Songs (1)
Songs I've Downloaded
Messages
Profile
Account
A song you added, Touch Me I'm Sick (V1), is in playtesting
just now
A song you added, Touch Me I'm Sick (V1), is processing
2 hrs ago
New Songs from Other Creators
Song Title by Artist Name
Song Title by Artist Name
Song Title by Artist Name
Album Art
Album Art
Album Art
COOL - NOW I JUST CHECK OUT THE FORUM THREAD ON THIS SONG TO SEE HOW IT'S DOING...
THE SONG MOVES INTO THE 'IN PLAYTEST' STATE, AND BILL WAITS ANXIOUSLY FOR

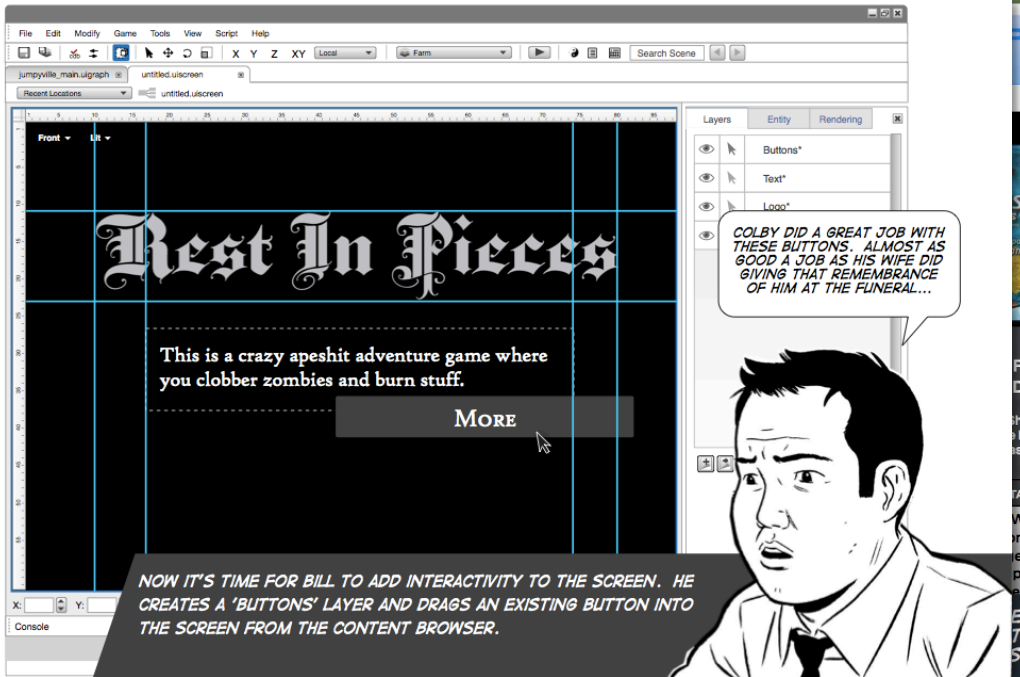

"100% SUSPENSE...THIS MIGHT BE THE 'SPEED 2: CRUISE CONTROL' OF WEBSITE DOCUMENTATION."
- ANTHONY LANE, THE NEW YORKER
A ROCKWORK ORANGE
ONE MAN'S JOURNEY FROM UNKNOWN, UNAPPRECIATED RECORDING ENGINEER TO A SLIGHTLY LESS UNKNOWN, SLIGHTLY MORE APPRECIATED AUTHOR OF A PLAYABLE ROCK BAND TRACK, AND THE WOMAN HE MET ALONG THE WAY WHO WOULD CHANGE HIS LIFE FOREVER.
A WEBTOWNE PUBLICATION
Review
Publish
Promote
GOOD THING I'VE GOT PARALLELS.
23 mb
11 mb
BILL INSTALLS THE TOOL ON HIS COMPUTER AND TRIES IT OUT. IT'S EASIER
THOUGHT, BECAUSE HE'S ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH REAPER. HE USES THE STE
RECENT RECORDING TO MAKE A DEMO.
Get Your Music in the Game.
Songs | Creators
Register
Sign In
Overview
Author
Upload
Review
CLICK!

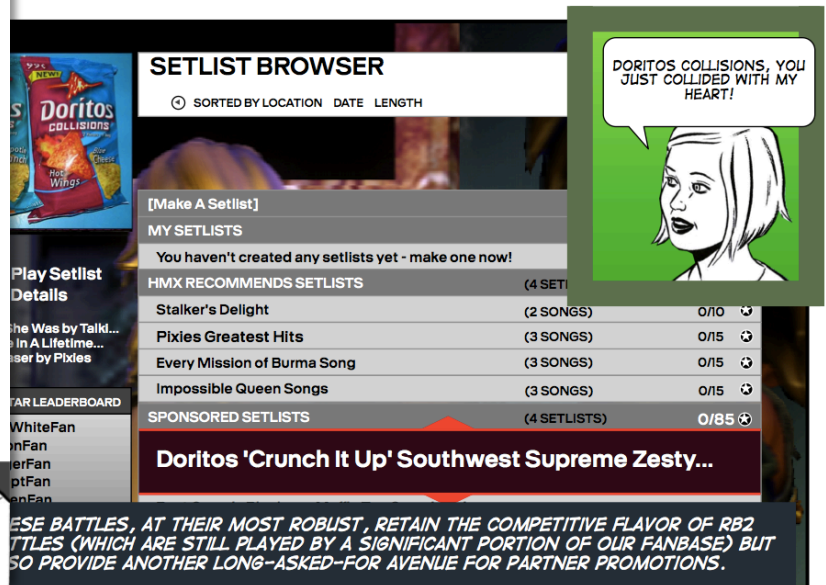
ROCK BAND SET LIST


CURRENTLY
There should be an easy way to organize properties.
Syncing audio to animation is total hell.
The property tree is way too long – why do I need to see 'transform,' then 'local transform'?
I can rearrange properties by dragging them, but I can't save the layout so what's the point?

MY SON LOVES ROCK BAND AND I LOVE MY SON BUT THIS NEWSLETTER IS ALL I CAN AFFORD TO GIVE HIM FOR HIS BAR MITZVAH.

I
SETLISTS
A PRIORITIZED STRATEGY


Rest In Pieces
This is a crazy apeshit adventure game where you clobber zombies and burn stuff.
More
COLBY DID A GREAT JOB WITH THESE BUTTONS. ALMOST AS GOOD A JOB AS HIS WIFE DID GIVING THAT REMEMBRANCE OF HIM AT THE FUNERAL...
NOW IT'S TIME FOR BILL TO ADD INTERACTIVITY TO THE SCREEN. HE CREATES A 'BUTTONS' LAYER AND DRAGS AN EXISTING BUTTON INTO THE SCREEN FROM THE CONTENT BROWSER.


SETLIST BROWSER
SORTED BY LOCATION DATE LENGTH
[Make A Setlist]
MY SETLISTS
You haven't created any setlists yet - make one now!
HMX RECOMMENDS SETLISTS
Stalker's Delight (2 SONGS) 0/10
Pixies Greatest Hits (3 SONGS) 0/15
Every Mission of Burma Song (3 SONGS) 0/15
Impossible Queen Songs (3 SONGS) 0/15
SPONSORED SETLISTS (4 SETLISTS) 0/85
Doritos 'Crunch It Up' Southwest Supreme Zesty...
DORITOS COLLISIONS, YOU JUST COLLIDED WITH MY HEART!
ESE BATTLES, AT THEIR MOST ROBUST, RETAIN THE COMPETITIVE FLAVOR OF RB2
TTLES (WHICH ARE STILL PLAYED BY A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF OUR FANBASE) BUT
SO PROVIDE ANOTHER LONG-ASKED-FOR AVENUE FOR PARTNER PROMOTIONS.

Disney & HARMONIX
PRESENT
FANTASIA
MUSIC EVOLVED
© Disney.

Crap.

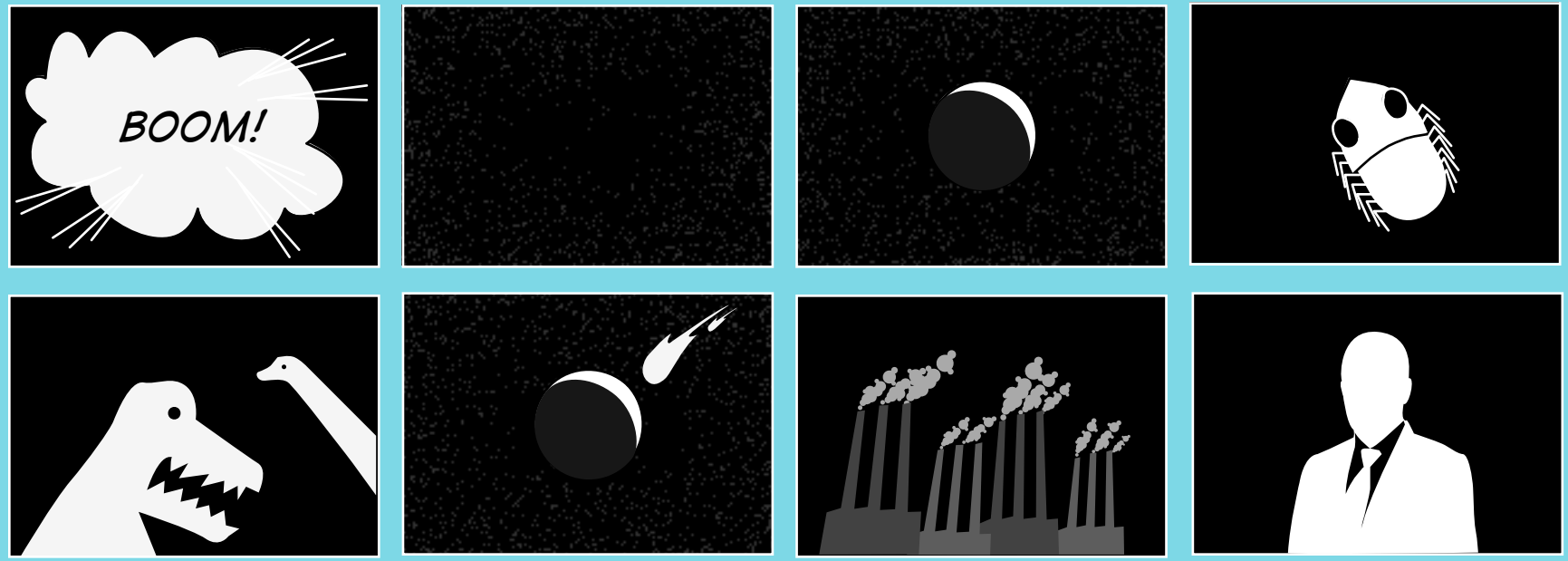
ALISON

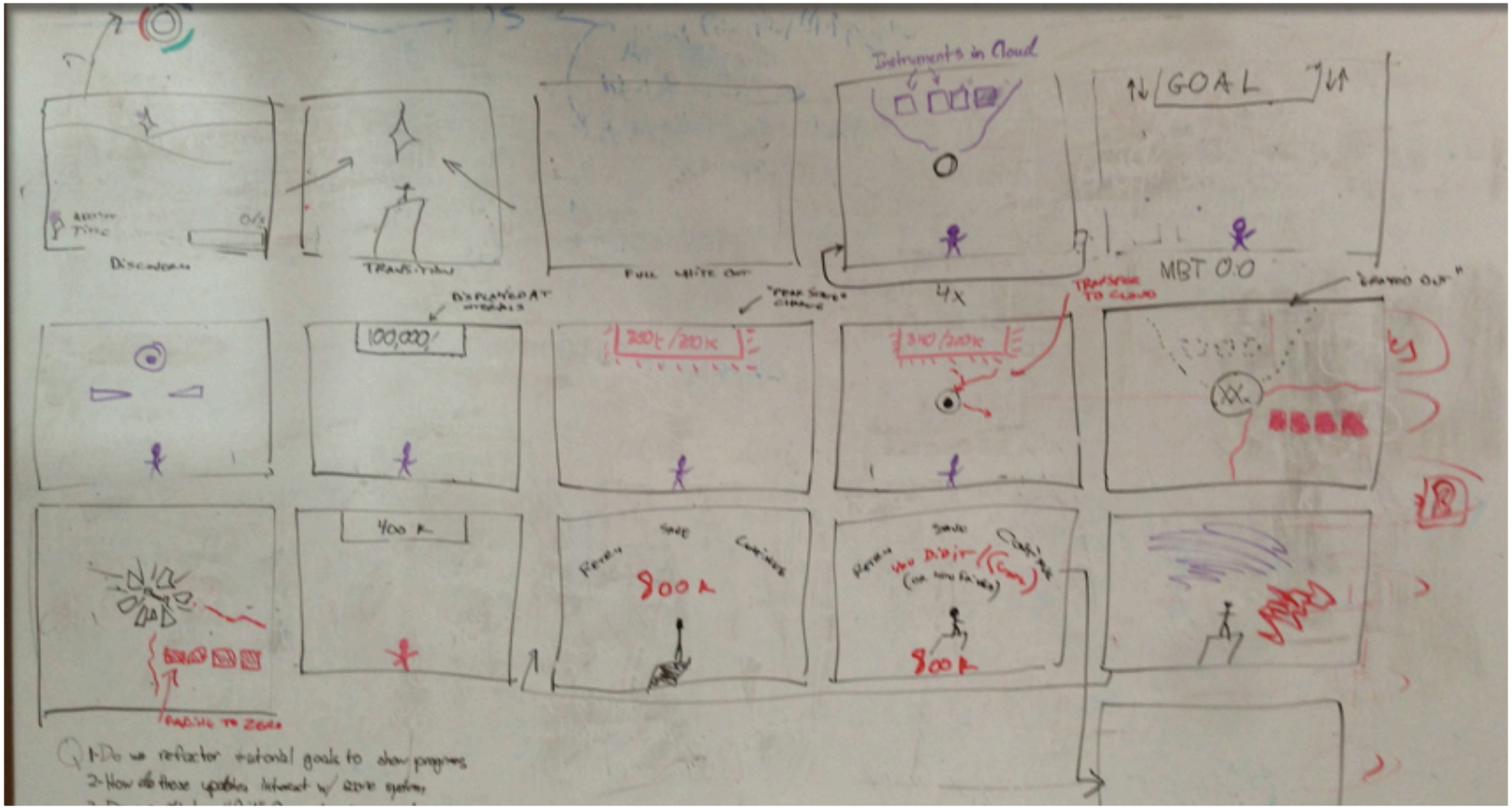
11 YEARS OLD
FAVORITE DISNEY CHARACTER: ALICE
READS FANTASY BOOKS ABOUT ANIMAL WARRIORS
PLAYS GAMES ON HER DAD'S XBOX 360 AND THE 3DS HER PARENTS WOULDN'T GIVE HER UNTIL SHE TURNED 10
RELUCTANTLY PLAYS TRUMPET IN SCHOOL BAND
MAKES UP AD HOC GAMES WITH HER FRIENDS AT RECESS
BEGINNING TO WORRY ABOUT BIG ISSUES LIKE DEATH AND HER PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE
WANTS TO WORK WITH ANIMALS WHEN SHE GROWS UP

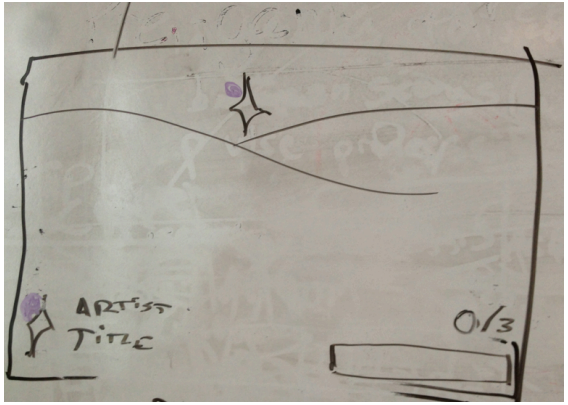
1914
2075

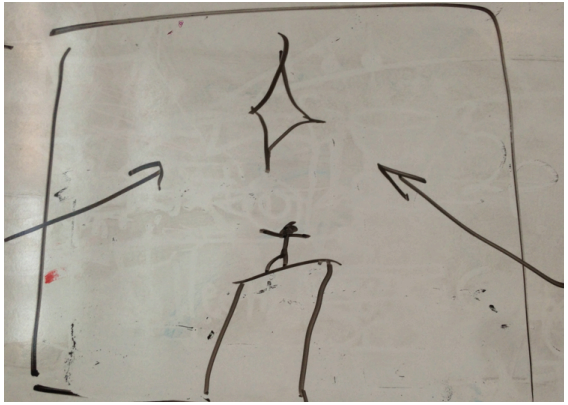
“TIME PASSES”

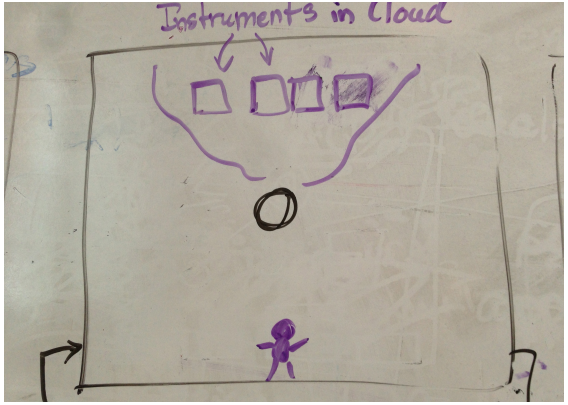
VS.

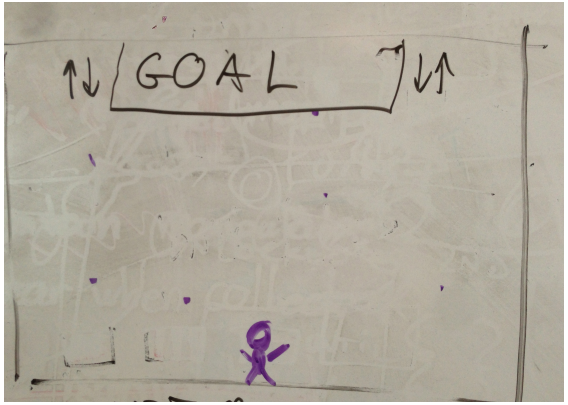


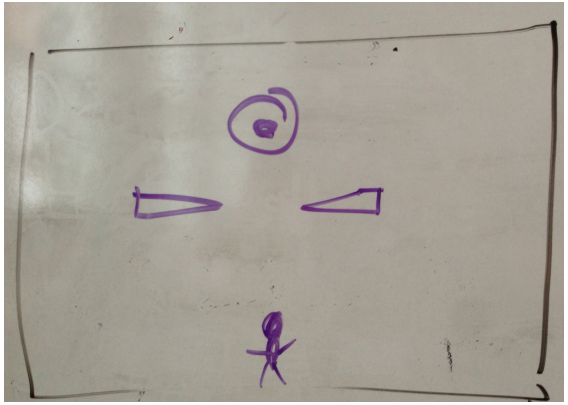

Instruments in Cloud
GOAL
MBT 0.0
Discovery
Transition
Full white out
4x
100,000
400 K
800 K
800 K
Q 1-Do we refactor tutorial goals to show progress
2-How do these updates interact w/ score system

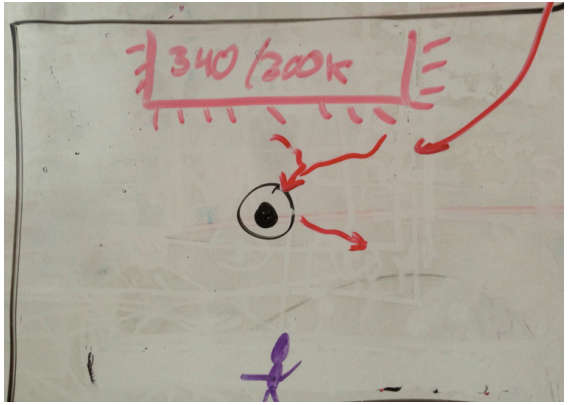

ARTIST
TITLE
0/3

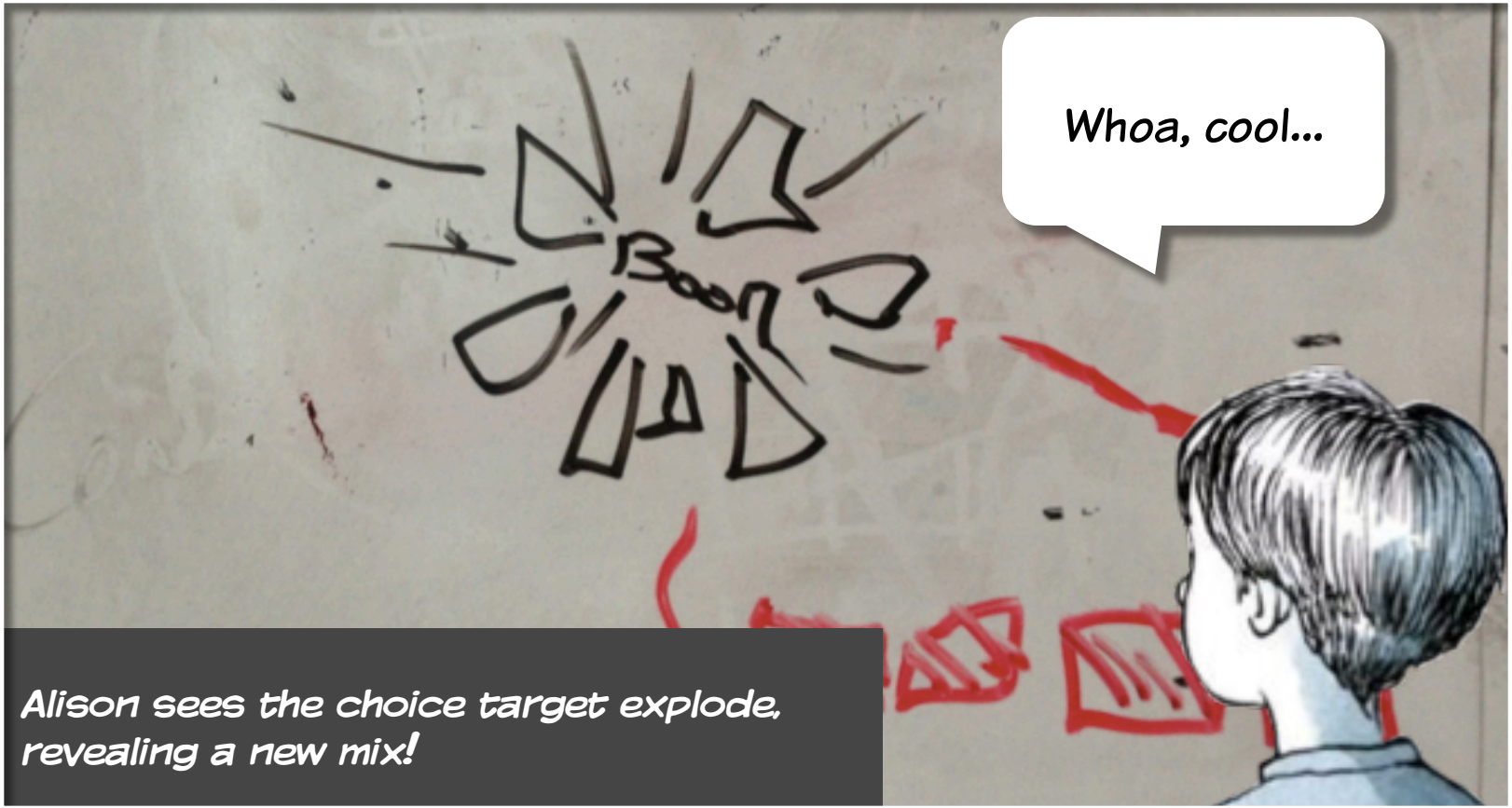


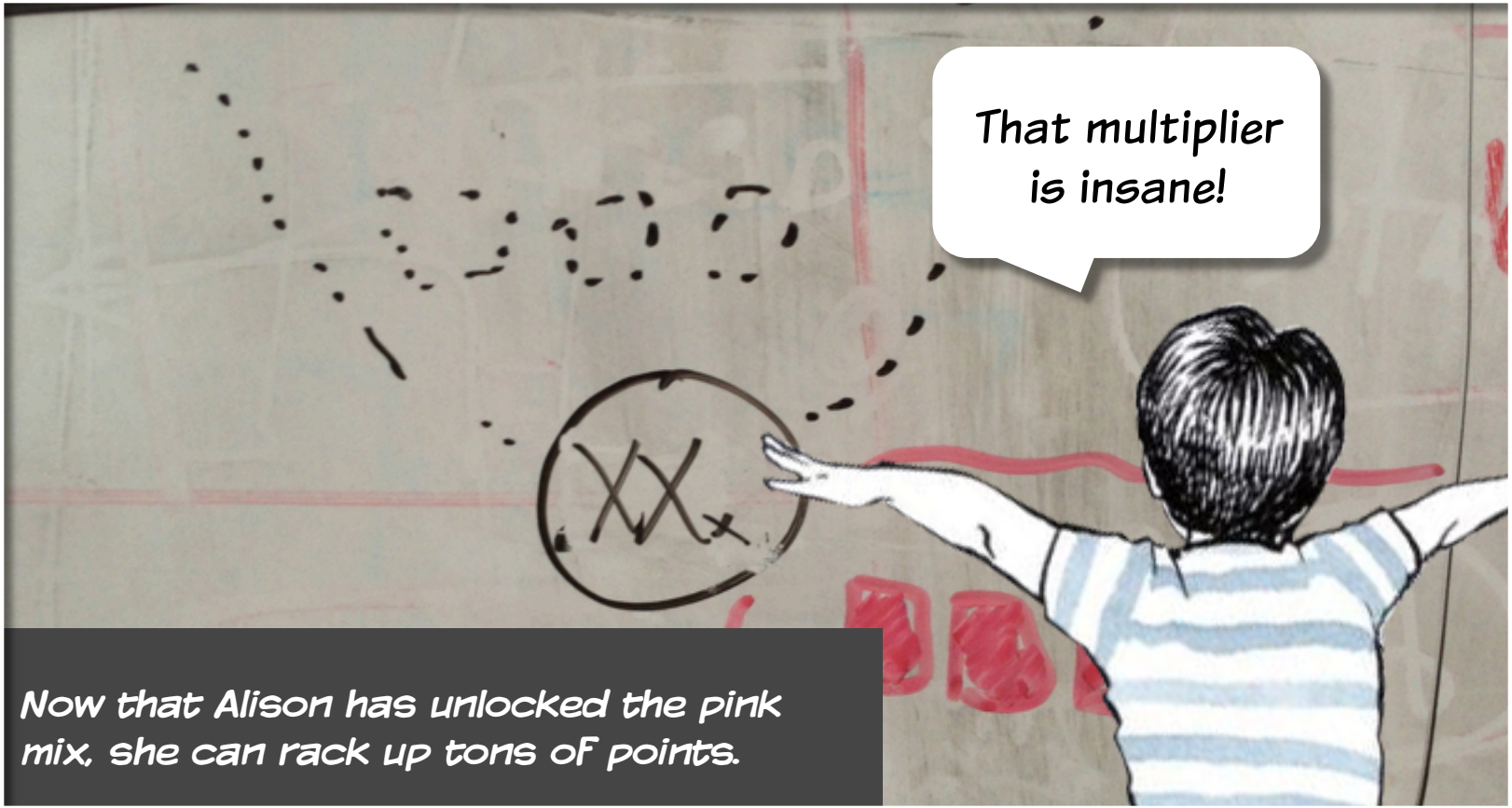

Instruments in Cloud

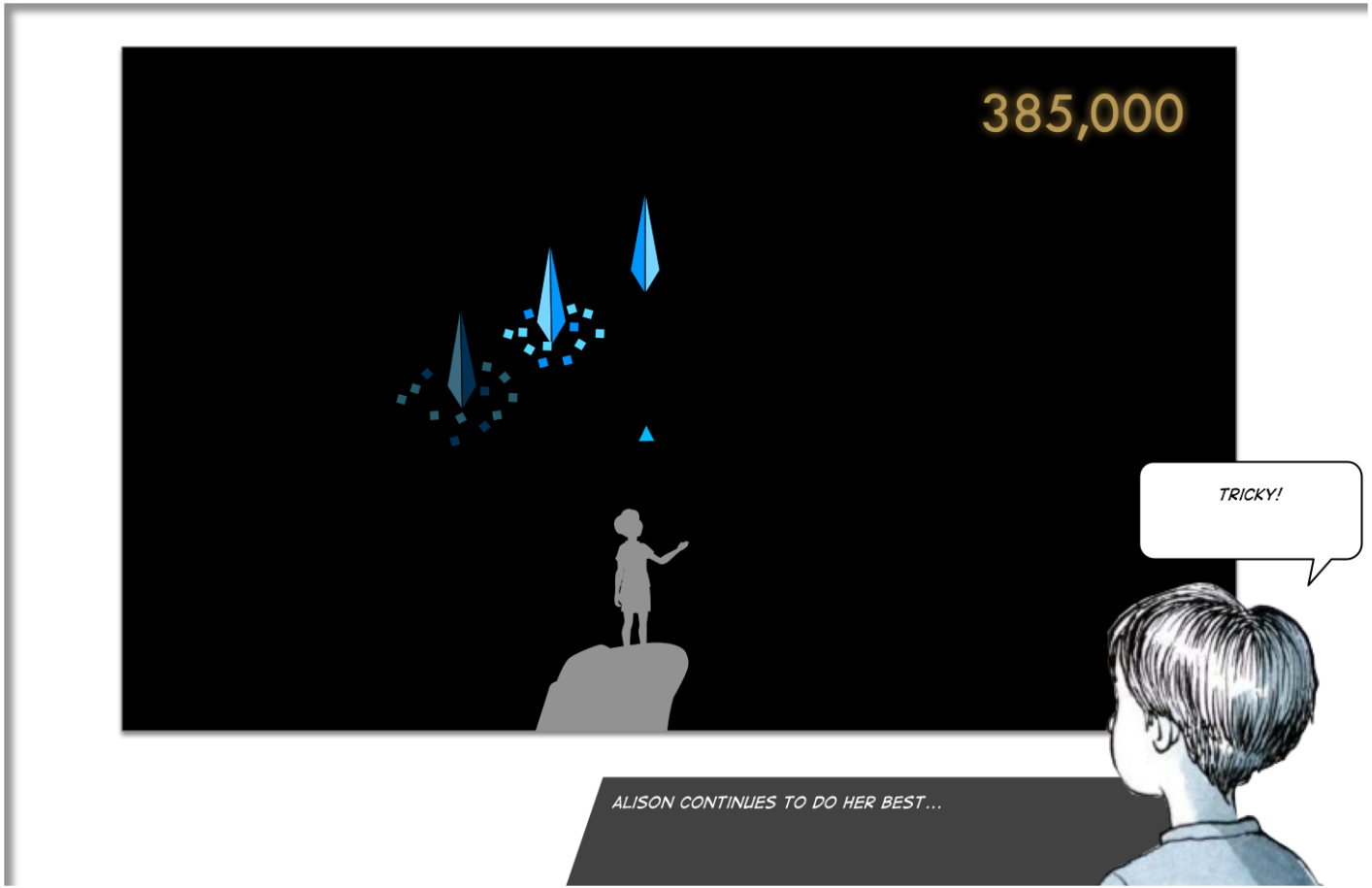

GOAL

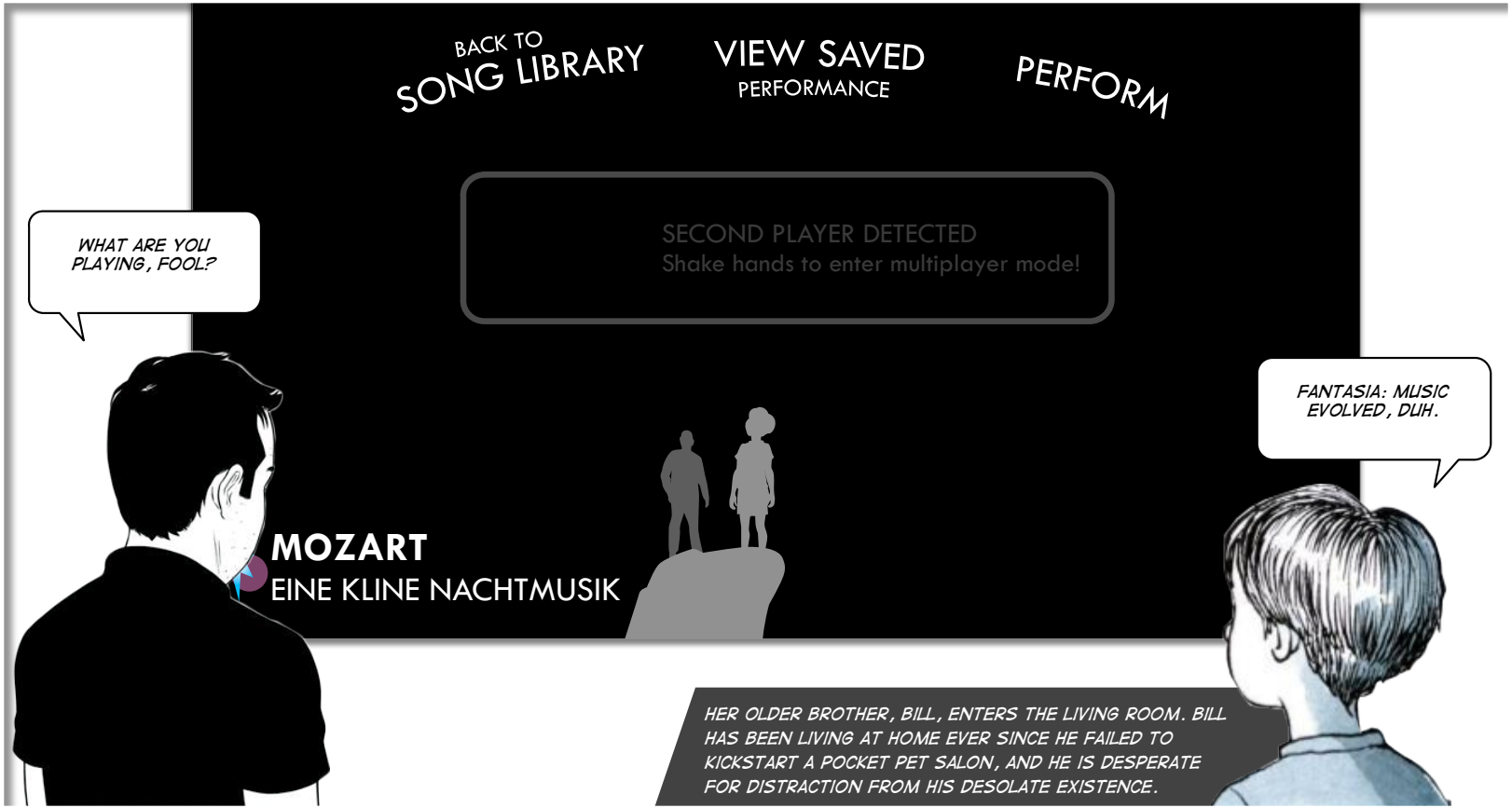



340/300K


Boom
Whoa, cool...
Alison sees the choice target explode, revealing a new mix!


That multiplier is insane!
Now that Alison has unlocked the pink mix, she can rack up tons of points.


385,000
TRICKY!
ALISON CONTINUES TO DO HER BEST...

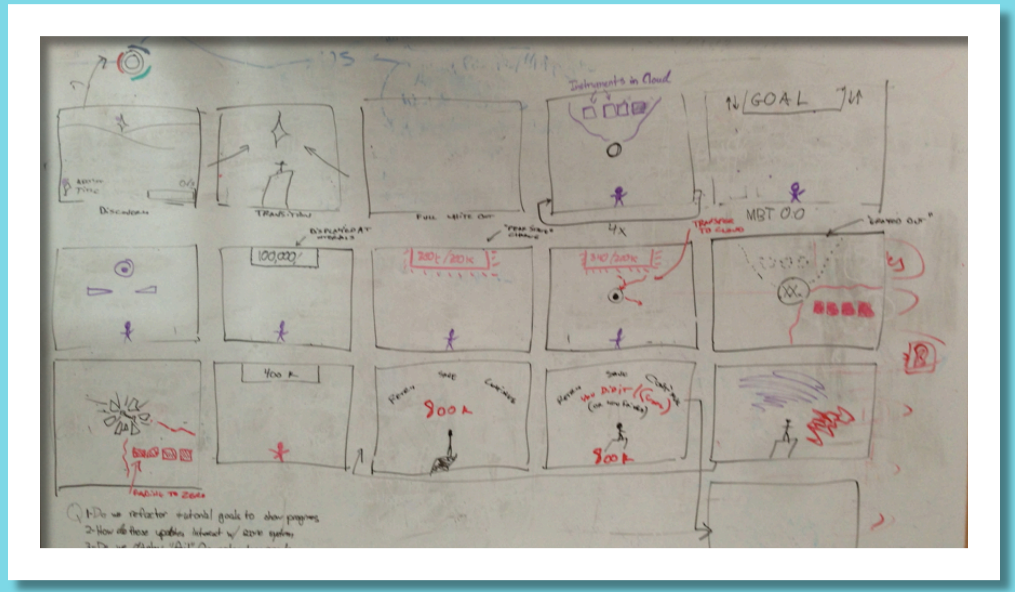

BACK TO SONG LIBRARY
VIEW SAVED PERFORMANCE
PERFORM
SECOND PLAYER DETECTED
Shake hands to enter multiplayer mode!
WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING, FOOL?
MOZART
EINE KLINE NACHTMUSIK
FANTASIA: MUSIC EVOLVED, DUH.
HER OLDER BROTHER, BILL, ENTERS THE LIVING ROOM. BILL HAS BEEN LIVING AT HOME EVER SINCE HE FAILED TO KICKSTART A POCKET PET SALON, AND HE IS DESPERATE FOR DISTRACTION FROM HIS DESOLATE EXISTENCE.

MAKING A SIMPLE DESIGN COMIC:

CREATE A CHARACTER – SOMEONE WHO ACCURATELY REPRESENTS YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE

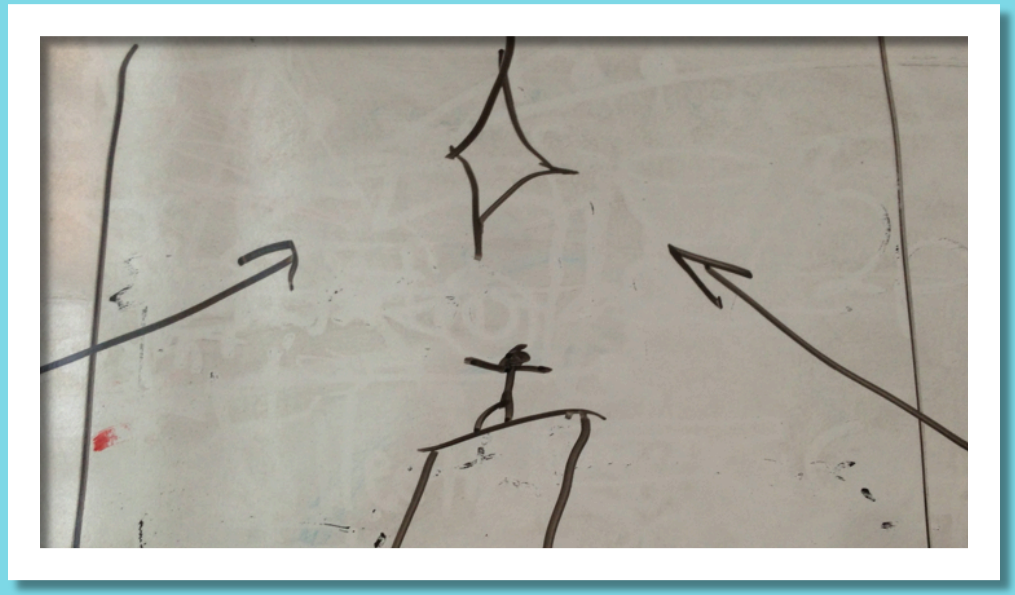
MAKING A SIMPLE DESIGN COMIC:

DRAW A SET OF FRAMES ON A WHITEBOARD — THE CONSTRAINT WILL HELP YOU DECIDE WHAT IS IMPORTANT



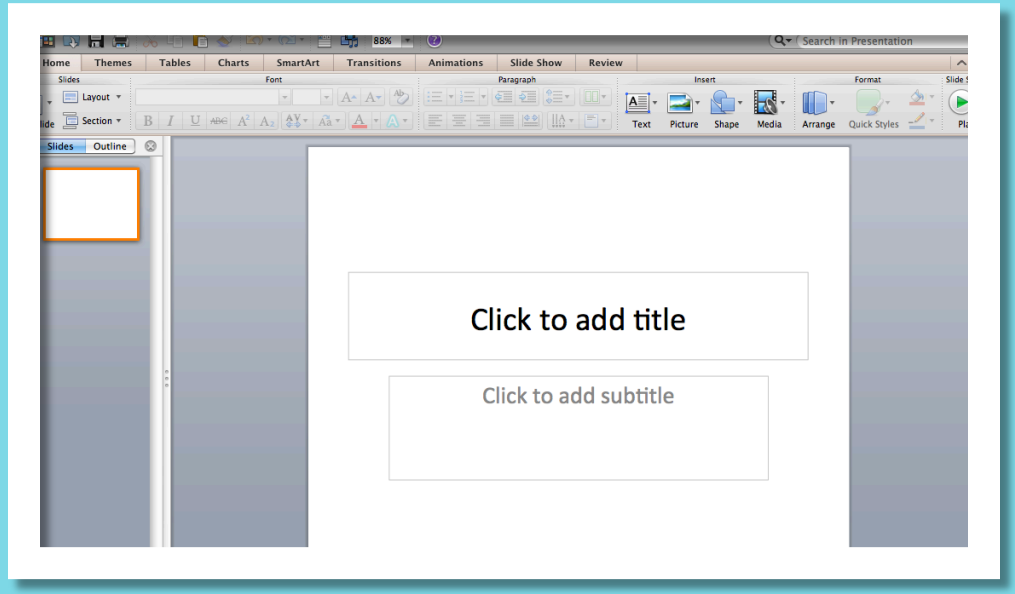
MAKING A SIMPLE DESIGN COMIC:

AS A GROUP, DECIDE ON THE IMPORTANT MOMENTS AND TAKE TURNS DRAWING THEM IN THE FRAMES



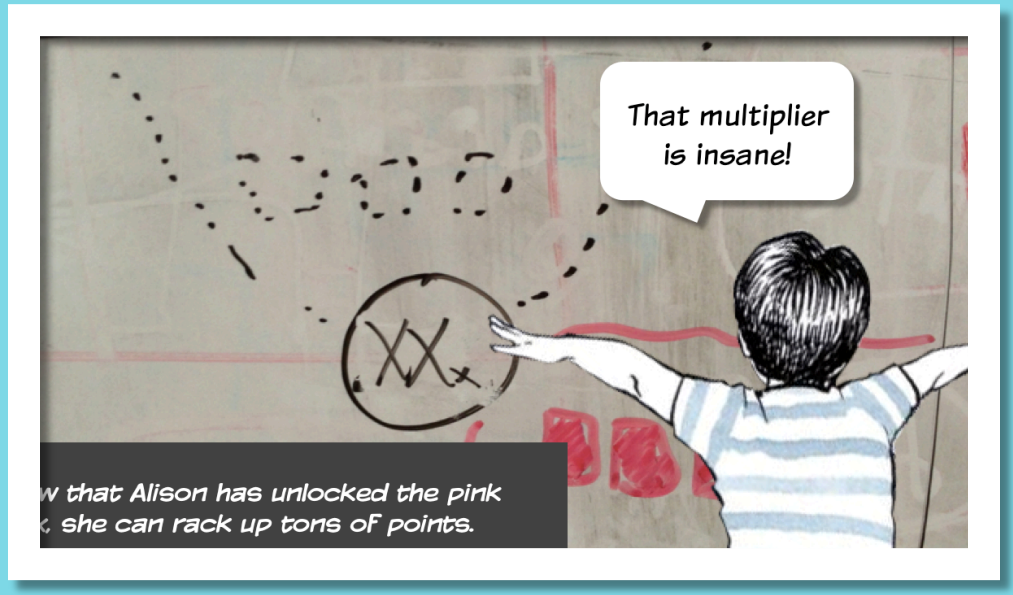
MAKING A SIMPLE DESIGN COMIC:

TAKE PHOTOS OF EACH FRAME AND DROP THEM INTO POWERPOINT



MAKING A SIMPLE DESIGN COMIC:

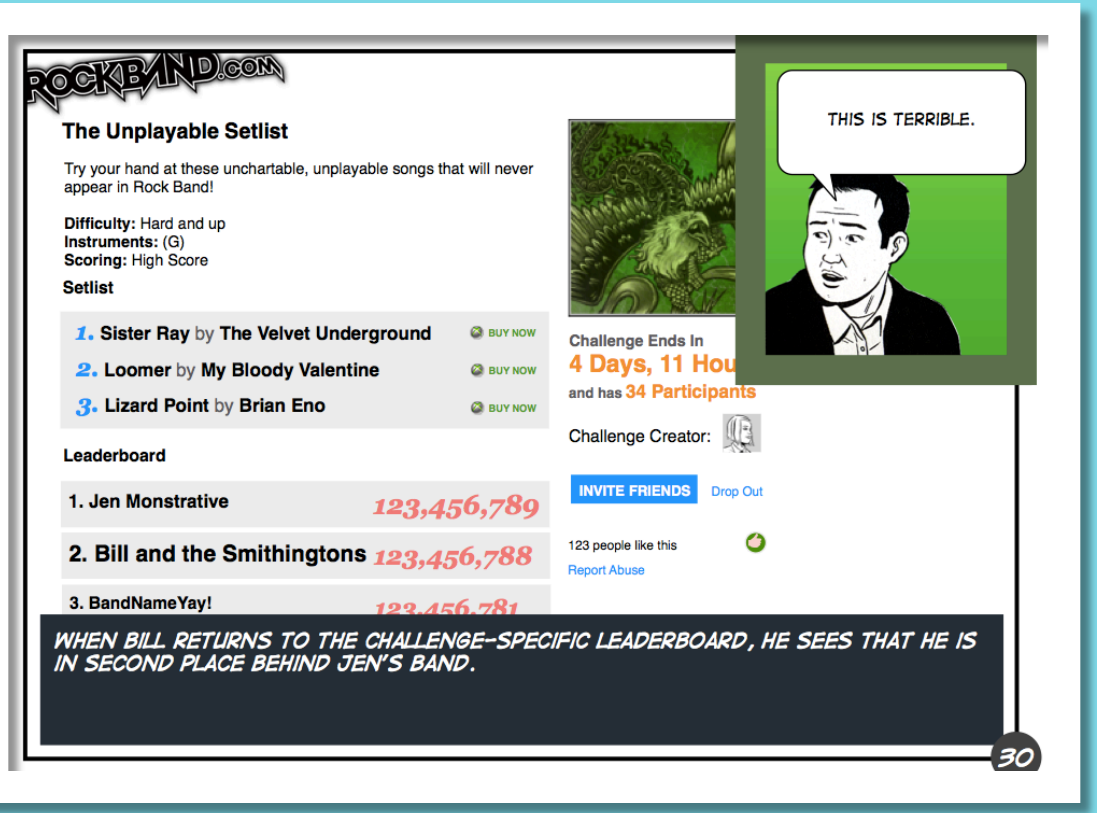
ADD YOUR CHARACTER, SPEECH BALLOONS, AND COMMENTARY



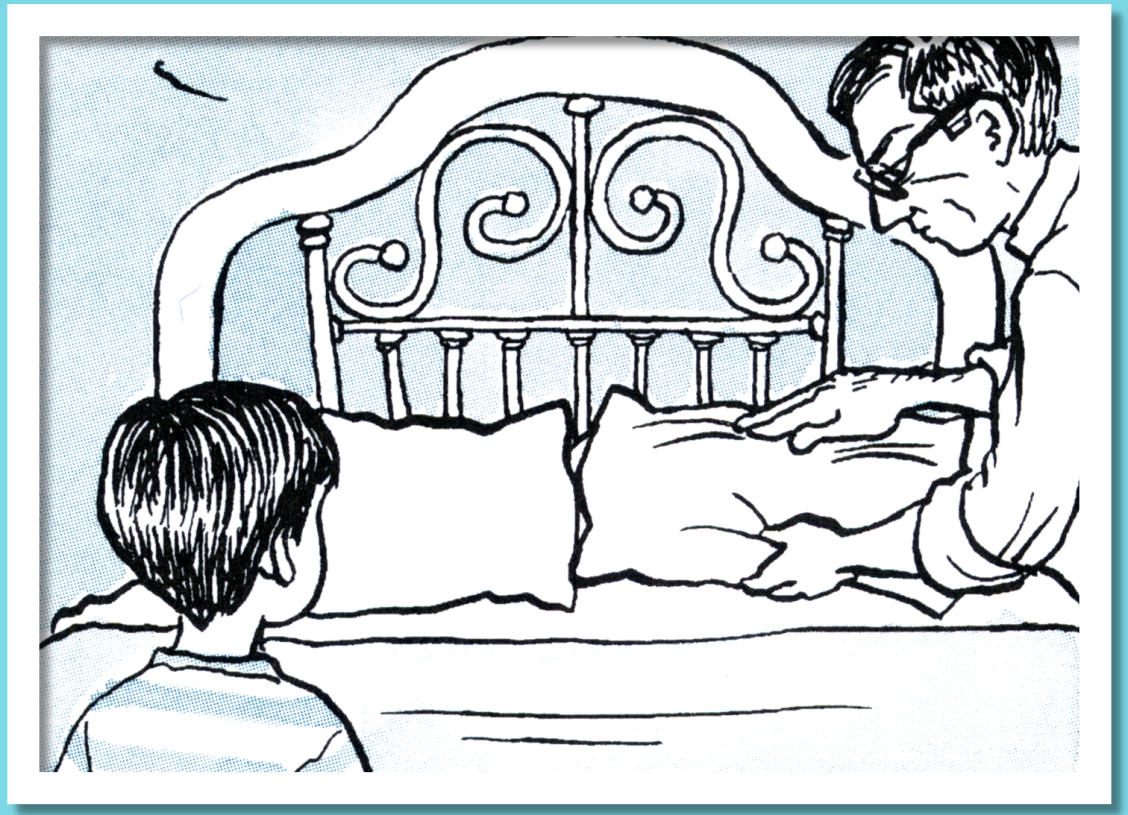
WHEN

TO USE COMICS

WHEN YOUR FEATURE CHANGES MEANINGFULLY OVER TIME

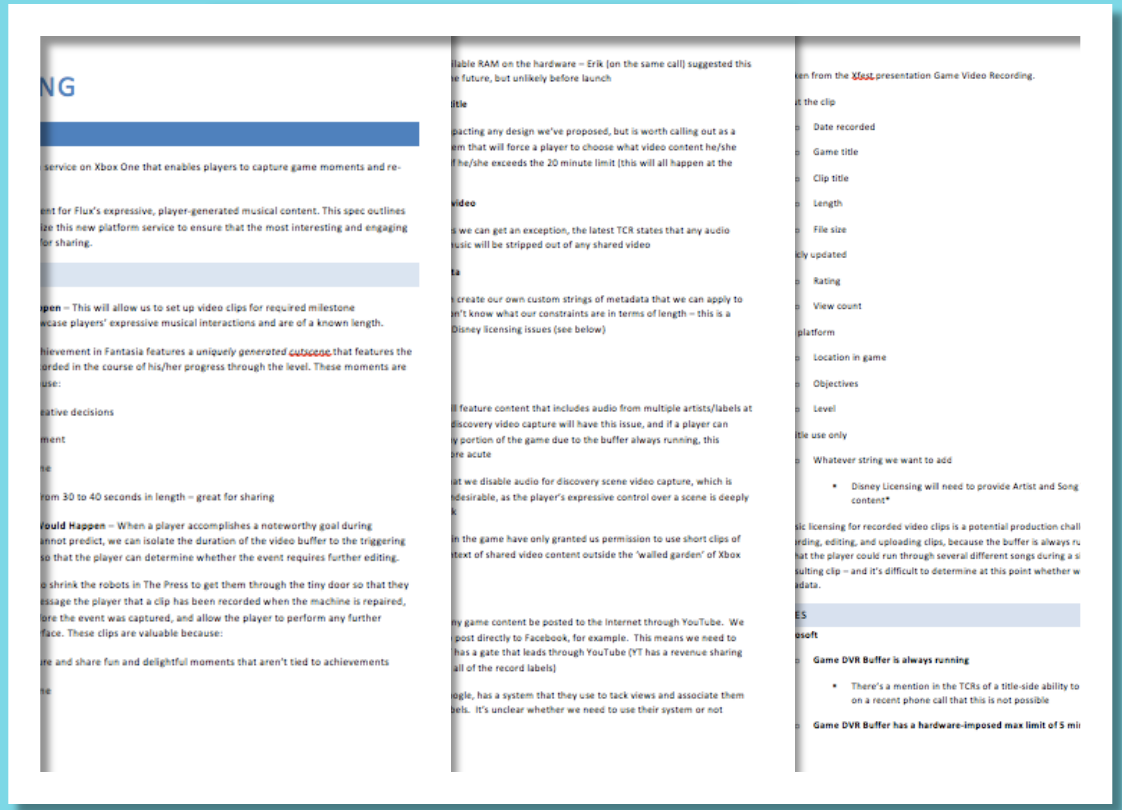


WHENEVER YOU'RE NOT DESIGNING FOR "YOU"



WHENEVER YOU CAN DESIGN FASTER THAN YOU CAN DEVELOP

WHEN THE ALTERNATIVE IS A SCROLLING WALL OF TEXTUAL DOOM



NG

service on Xbox One that enables players to capture game moments and re-

ent for Flux's expressive, player-generated musical content. This spec outlines ize this new platform service to ensure that the most interesting and engaging for sharing.

pen – This will allow us to set up video clips for required milestone wcase players' expressive musical interactions and are of a known length.

hievement in Fantasia features a *uniquely generated cutscene* that features the orded in the course of his/her progress through the level. These moments are use:

eative decisions

ment

he

rom 30 to 40 seconds in length – great for sharing

Would Happen – When a player accomplishes a noteworthy goal during annot predict, we can isolate the duration of the video buffer to the triggering so that the player can determine whether the event requires further editing.

o shrink the robots in The Press to get them through the tiny door so that they ssage the player that a clip has been recorded when the machine is repaired, ore the event was captured, and allow the player to perform any further face. These clips are valuable because:

re and share fun and delightful moments that aren't tied to achievements

he

lable RAM on the hardware – Erik (on the same call) suggested this e future, but unlikely before launch

itle

pacting any design we've proposed, but is worth calling out as a em that will force a player to choose what video content he/she f he/she exceeds the 20 minute limit (this will all happen at the

video

s we can get an exception, the latest TCR states that any audio usic will be stripped out of any shared video

ta

create our own custom strings of metadata that we can apply to n't know what our constraints are in terms of length – this is a Disney licensing issues (see below)

ll feature content that includes audio from multiple artists/labels at discovery video capture will have this issue, and if a player can y portion of the game due to the buffer always running, this ore acute

at we disable audio for discovery scene video capture, which is desirable, as the player's expressive control over a scene is deeply k

in the game have only granted us permission to use short clips of text of shared video content outside the 'walled garden' of Xbox

y game content be posted to the Internet through YouTube. We post directly to Facebook, for example. This means we need to has a gate that leads through YouTube (YT has a revenue sharing all of the record labels)

ogle, has a system that they use to tack views and associate them bels. It's unclear whether we need to use their system or not

en from the Xfest presentation Game Video Recording.

t the clip

- Date recorded
- Game title
- Clip title
- Length
- File size

ly updated

- Rating
- View count

platform

- Location in game
- Objectives
- Level

tle use only

- Whatever string we want to add
  - Disney Licensing will need to provide Artist and Song content*

ic licensing for recorded video clips is a potential production chall rding, editing, and uploading clips, because the buffer is always ru at the player could run through several different songs during a si ulting clip – and it's difficult to determine at this point whether w data.

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osoft

- **Game DVR Buffer is always running**
  - There's a mention in the TCRs of a title-side ability to on a recent phone call that this is not possible
- **Game DVR Buffer has a hardware-imposed max limit of 5 mi**

THANKS!

MATTHEW DERBY

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