

# **LEVEL UP YOUR GAME:** **THE UNTAPPED POTENTIAL OF** **ROGUELIKES**

**TOM CADWELL**





















~~genre~~



# **AGENDA**



**WHAT IS A ROGUELIKE**

**MASTERY LOOP**

**ROGUELIKE PATTERNS**

**APPLYING ROGUELIKES**

**Q&A**



# **AGENDA**



**WHAT IS A ROGUELIKE**



**MASTERY LOOP**



**ROGUELIKE PATTERNS**



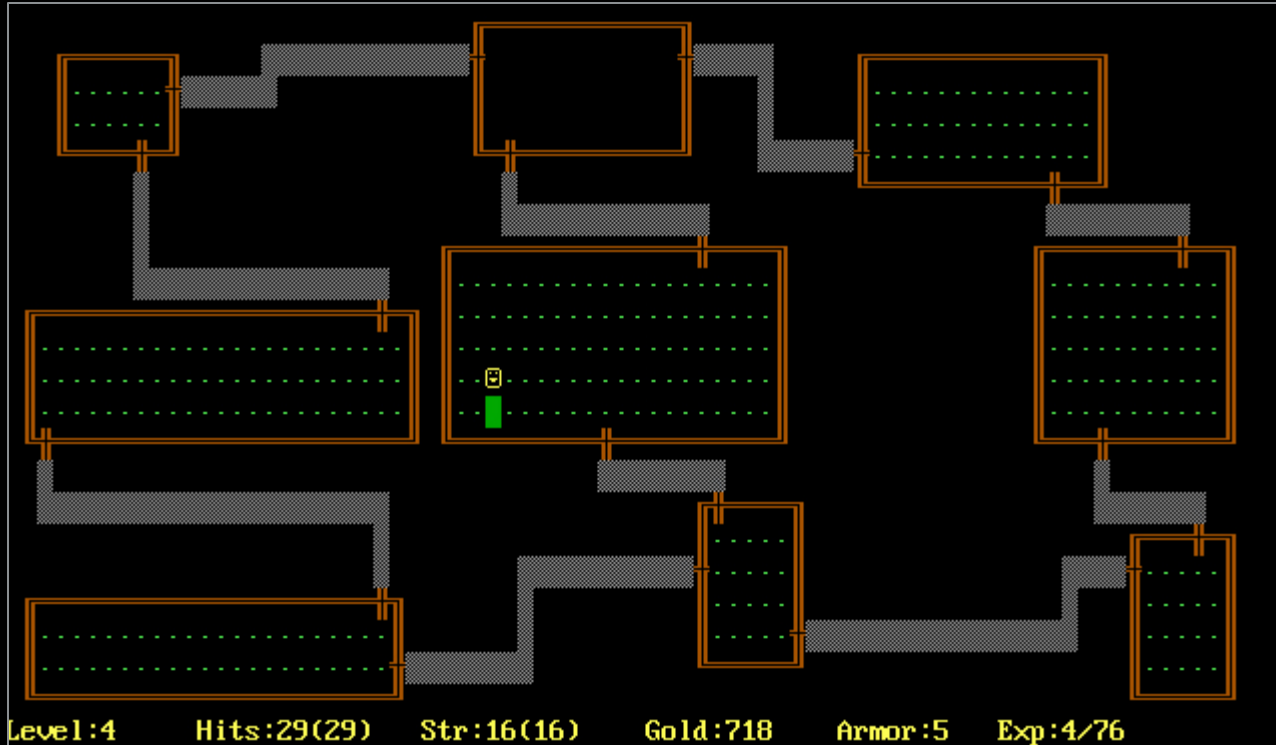
**APPLYING ROGUELIKES**



**Q&A**



# ROGUE





# NETHACK

The djinni speaks. "I am in your debt. I will grant one wish!"--More--



Foosh the Peregrinator St:18/07 Dx:17 Co:18 In:15 Wi:11 Ch:17 Neutral S:252205  
Home 1 \$:0 HP:132(132) Pw:56(56) AC:-4 Xp:13/51018 T:44408 Burdened



# RISK OF RAIN



# FTL

CONTINUE  
NEW GAME  
TUTORIAL  
STATS  
OPTIONS  
CREDITS  
QUIT



# SPELUNKY



# THE BINDING OF ISRAAC





# STARCRAFT



# ANGBAND





**WHY ARE**  
**ROGUELIKES**  
**INCREDIBLY**  
**ENGAGING**





# MASTERY LOOP



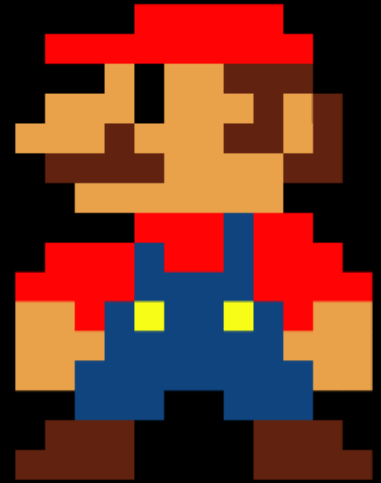


# FORMS OF MASTERY

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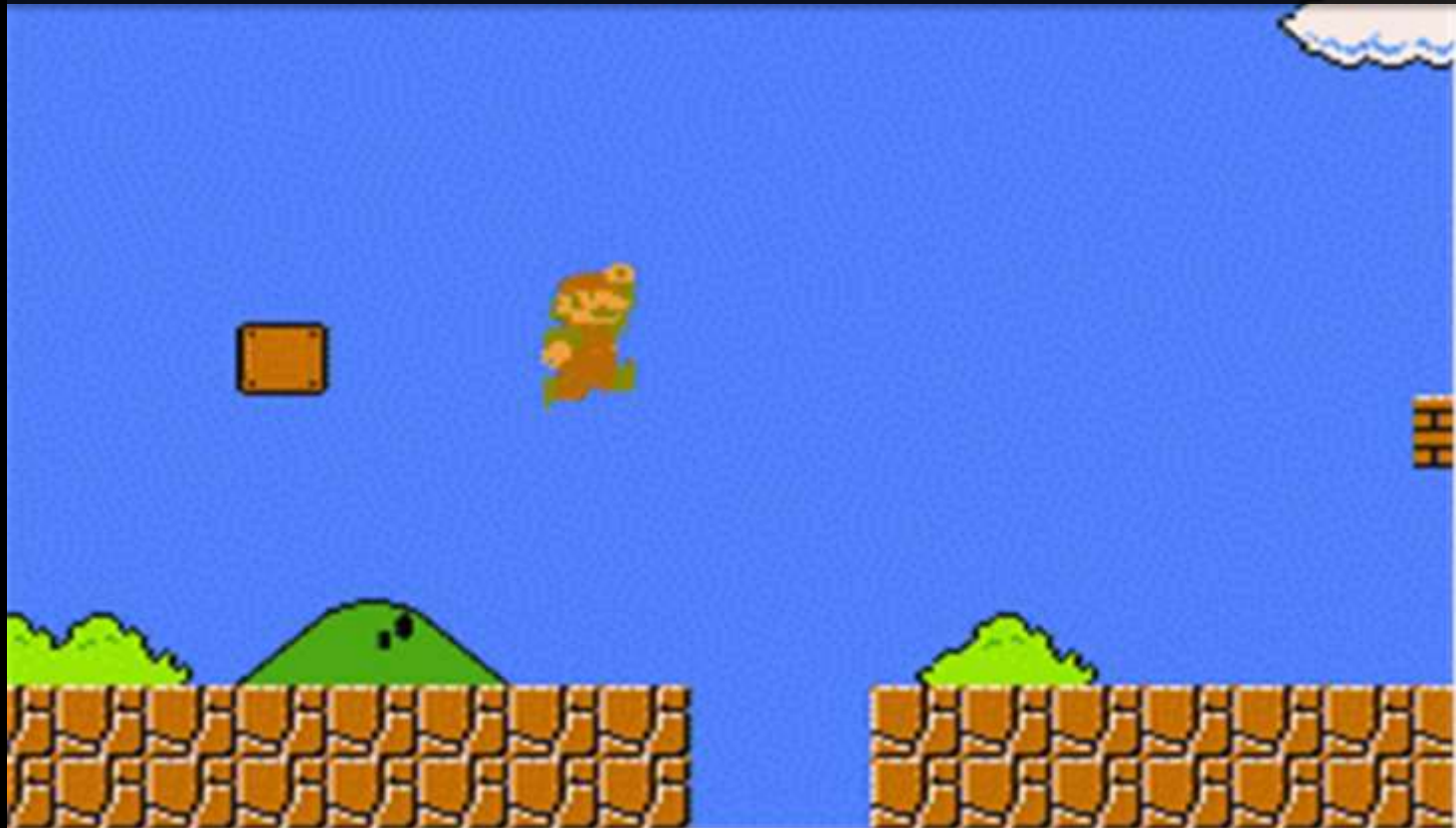
**Not limited to but including...**

- ▶ **Mechanical skill and dexterity**
- ▶ **Strategy and judgment**
- ▶ **Knowledge and understanding**





# MECHANICAL SKILL & DEXTERITY





[illegible]



# KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING





# FORMS OF MASTERY

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- ▶ **Mechanical skill and dexterity**
- ▶ **Strategy and judgment**
- ▶ **Knowledge and understanding**
- ▶ **NOT Teamwork**







**RANDOM  
PARALLEL  
LEARNING**



A close-up photograph of a Shiba Inu dog's face, looking slightly to the left with wide, dark eyes. The dog has light tan fur with darker patches around its eyes and ears. The background is a soft, out-of-focus yellow. Overlaid on the image are five phrases in a playful, hand-drawn font style, each with a thick black outline and a specific color: 'VERY SKILLS' in red at the top left, 'MUCH LEARN' in green at the top right, 'OH' in purple in the center right, 'SO MANY MASTER' in blue at the bottom left, and 'SUCH DEPTH' in orange at the bottom right.

**VERY SKILLS**

**MUCH LEARN**

**OH**

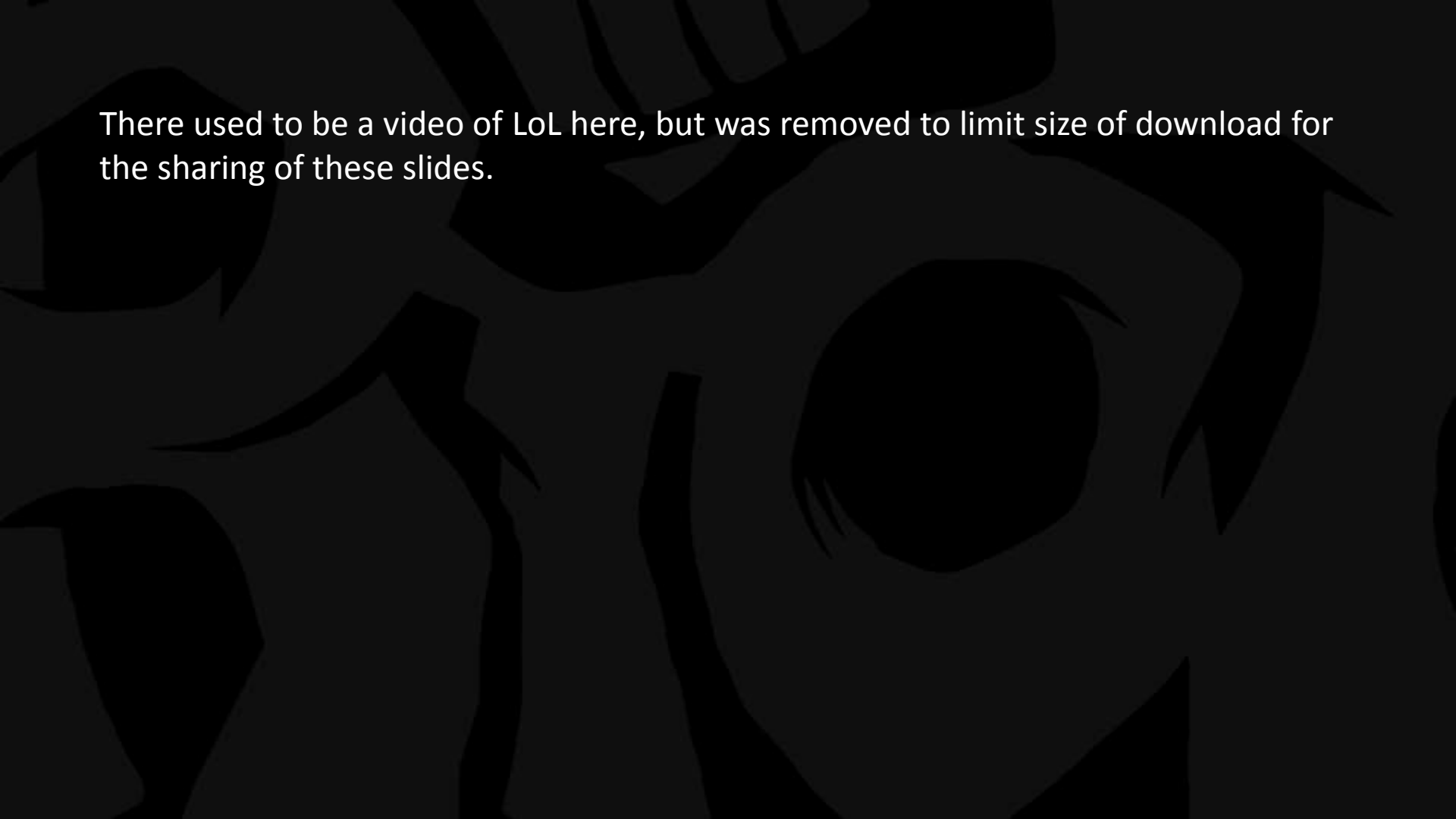
**SO MANY MASTER**

**SUCH DEPTH**









There used to be a video of LoL here, but was removed to limit size of download for the sharing of these slides.



# **AGENDA**



**WHAT IS A ROGUELIKE**

**MASTERY LOOP**

**ROGUELIKE PATTERNS**

**PATTERNS IN GAMES**

**Q&A**



# HERO OR ZERO





**ONE DOES NOT  
SIMPLY**



**MAKE A HERO**



# HERO OR ZERO

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x05  
x02  
x04



BASEMENT 2



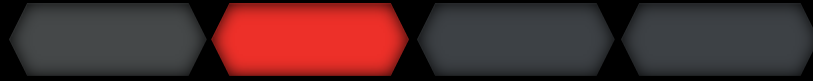
# HERO OR ZERO

---

- **DO** provide a “real ultimate power” fantasy
- **DO** add ceremony
- **BE CAUTIOUS** mixing in and out of session progression



# DIVERSE TOOLS & MAKING DO







**You have my sword...**



**AND MY AXE**

MEMEBASE.com



**AND YOU HAVE MY BOW**

MEMEBASE.com



# DIVERSE TOOLS & MAKING DO

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# DIVERSE TOOLS & MAKING DO

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- **DO** ensure tool limitations
- **DO** provide some challenges with multiple solutions
- **DO** ensure tools are powerful

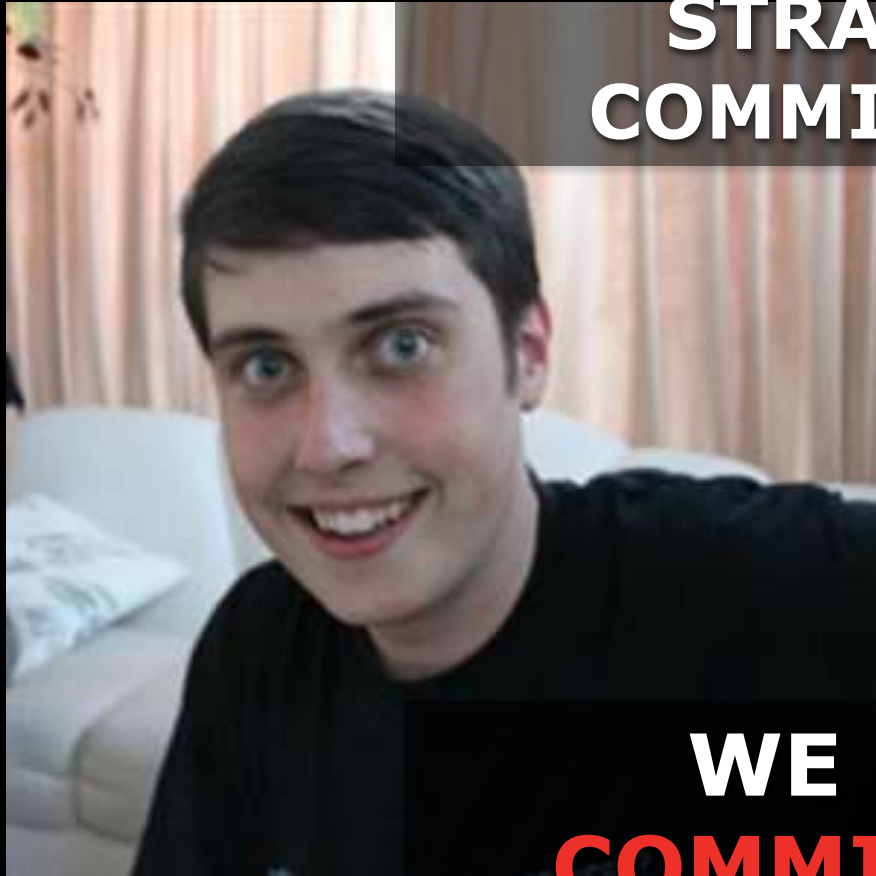


# COMPETING OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIC COMMITMENT





**STRATEGIC  
COMMITMENT?**



**WE LOVE  
COMMITMENT!**







# FTL





# BINDING OF ISAAC





# COMPETING OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIC COMMITMENT

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- **DO** clarify tradeoffs
- **DO** ensure a balance of goals
- **CONSIDER** leveraging an 'ambiguous' future



**VARIETY  
NOT RANDOMNESS**





**I HAVE A  
RANDOM IDEA...**



**ADD VARIETY!**



# VARIETY, NOT RANDOMNESS





# **AGENDA**



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# **RECAP ROGUELIKE PATTERNS**

Random Parallel Learning  
Hero or Zero  
Diverse Tools & Making Do  
Competing Objectives &  
Strategic Commitment  
Variety not Random



# DARK SOULS™













01



26

Soul Arrow



7

Estus Flask+1

Chaos Witch Quelaag



5684













Jinx  
RiotSilver

45  
28%



Scorched Earth Reksekt  
Alvin Lee Sin

11%



Rek'Sai  
HUGEnFAST

28%



Victorious Morgana  
obLonged

6%



Brand  
Riot TofuTarget

13%

VS



Maokai  
Somnicial

27%



Udyr  
hugehugesword

27%



Blood Moon Kalista  
RiotColdburger

28%



Blitzcrank  
Riot K

10%



Vel'Koz  
Riot Tokkelossie

26%





PENTAKILL!





# LEAGUE OF LEGENDS

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# CIVILIZATION





## Tenochtitlan



17 Citizens

4 Turns until a New Citizen is Born

22 33 51 37 19 6



Circus

3 Turns



Colosseum

3 Turns



Temple

2 Turns



Walls

3 Turns



Stone Works

3 Turns



Amphitheater

3 Turns

### WONDERS



National Epic

4 Turns



The Hagia Sophia

8 Turns



Great Mosque of Djenna

8 Turns



Stone Works

(3 Turns)

33.35 Production / Turn

PURCHASE

Back

20

TENOCHTITLAN

Edit

Resource Demanded: Gold



Buy a Tile

Return to Map

### Citizen Management



Default Focus



Food Focus



Production Focus



Gold Focus



Science Focus



Culture Focus



Great Person Focus



Faith Focus



Avoid Growth

Reset Tiles

### Great People

Great Artist



Great Scientist



Great Engineer



### Specialist Buildings



Manual Specialist Control

Market





(Tyr)

(Zichos)

(Trilar)

(Narn)

Hammis

Jabbar

COLONIES

CHANGE CURRENT RESEARCH

CONSTRUCTION

744 RP

Servo Mechanics

Advanced Damage Control

Assault Shuttles

Fast Missile Racks

CHEMISTRY

994 RP

Molecular Compression

Atmospheric Renewer

Iridium Fuel Cells

Pulson Missile

COMPUTERS

1344 RP

Artificial Consciousness

Cyber-Security Link

Emissions Guidance System

Rangemaster Unit

PHYSICS

744 RP

Neutrino Physics

Neutron Blaster

Neutron Scanner

POWER

744 RP

Ion Fission

Ion Drive

Ion Pulse Cannon

Shield Capacitors

SOCIOLOGY

994 RP

Macro Economics

Planetary Stock Exchange

BIOLOGY

744 RP

Genetic Engineering

Microbotics

Telepathic Training

FORCE FIELDS

744 RP

Magneto Gravitics

Class III Shield

Planetary Radiation Shield

Warp Dissipater

3501.0

122 BC  
+19 BC

+17 (17)

-2

+15 (15)

~61 turns  
15 RP

TURN

CANCEL



# CIVILIZATION









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