

TH \oplus SE THAT SLAY T \oplus GETHER. A C \oplus - \oplus P MANIFEST \oplus

KEVIN MARTENS LEAD DESIGNER, BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT

GAME DEVELOPERS CONFERENCE MOSCONE CENTER · SAN FRANCISCO, CA

MOSCONE CENTER · SAN FRANCISCO, CA MARCH 2-6, 2015 · EXPO: MARCH 4-6, 2015

₩H⊕ Aℿ !?







AT BIOWARE II YEARS

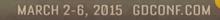






AT BLIZZARD SINCE 2009
 CURRENTLY LEAD DESIGNER #F
 THE DIABL# FRANCHISE





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WHY AM I HERE?

- + PLEASE LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES
 + EMPOWER YOURSELF TO BYPASS THE PITFALLS AND NAYSAYERS
- + I WANT MORE CO-OP GAMES TO PLAY!

+ THE FUN PART FOR ME:



WE ARE ALL IN $C \oplus - \oplus P$ **MODE RIGHT NOW** PLAYING GDC! GBC



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NOT DESIGNING IN A VACUUM

Roguelike

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Roguelike is a subgenre of role-playing video games, characterized by procedural level generation, turn-based gameplay, tile-ba Roguelikes descend from the 1980 game *Rogue*, particularly mirroring *Rogue*'s character- or sprite-based graphics, turn-based g randomization.^[1] In more recent years, new variations of roguelikes incorporating other gameplay genres, thematic elements and lite" or "procedural death labyrinths" to reflect the variation from titles which mimic the gameplay of traditional roguelikes more faith





GDC GIVES PERSPECTIVE



GAME DESIGN IS YOUNG

AS AN ART AND A SCIENCE
NØ SINGLE GAME WHERE THIS CHANGES
ØNGØING REVØLUTIØN
INTERACTIØN IS ØUR MAGIC





DVD

PRESS START

TODAY'S CO-OP QUEST

PART I: NATURAL BORN CO-OP PART 2: THE EARLY YEARS: CO-OP DESIGN AT BIOWARE PART 3: NETWORK CO-OP IN DIABLO III

+ PART 4: COUCH CO-OP IN DIABLO III CONSOLE



TAKEAWAYS

SIMPLE CO-OP RULES REALITY WE ARE IN COOPERATIVE DESIGN VALUES HOW TO WORK EFFECTIVELY IN IT

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PART I: NATURAL BORN CO-OP

A LONG TIME AGO IN A LAND FAR AWAY ...

AP

CUNF.CUM

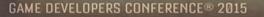
- I DISCOVERED CO-OP
 VIDEO GAMES
 WAIT, THAT'S NOT
- QUITE RIGHT ...
- · I ADDED CO-OP TO ALL GAMES

RETURN OF HERACLES





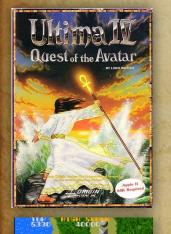
ADD SOMEONE ELSE





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AND SO ON



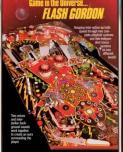
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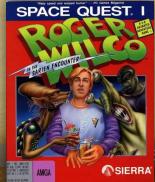
















BIRTECH

PART II: THE EARLY YEARS

CO-OP DESIGN IN BALDUR'S GATE AND NEVERWINTER NIGHTS

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS



kaldur's Gate You must gather your party before venturing forth. You must gather your party before venturing forth. You must gather your party before venturing forth. You must gather your party before venturing forth.

CO-OP LIMITATIONS IN BG

You must gather your party before venturing forth. You must gather your party before venturing forth.



RULE #1: IT'S NOT YOUR GAME

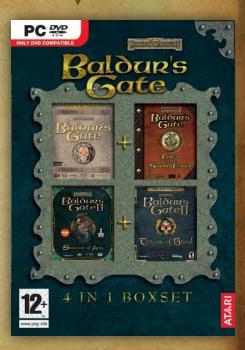
+ IT IS THEIRS + PLAYERS AD OFT A UNIVERSAL CO-OF STORY





SO WHAT IS BALDUR'S GATE?

CHILDREN OF BHAAL FIGHTING FOR SUPREMACY IN THE FORGOTTEN REALMS SENDER TACTICAL PAUSE AND LAY COMBAT WITH A DEEP BRANCHING STORYLINE?





BALDUR'S GATE IN CO-OP IS ...







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Jaheira- Ehh, I think I still have a stitch in my leg from lying in that cold cell we were in. It is good to be up and moving.

mi

Auto-Paused: Enemy Sighted

 $\forall \times \times$

- 1:- I am sorry I could not release you earlier. 2:- I've a few pains from that incident myself, though I'm not as certain of the cause.
- 3:- And is there some reason I should have to suffer by hearing you whine about

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CO-OP VALUE: GIVE PLAYERS THE WHEEL

+ EMPOWER THEM WITH TOOLS TO MAXIMIZE THEIR CO-OP EXPERIENCE



HOW TO APPLY DESIGN VALUES

THESE ARE FILTERS, FORM THEM AS QUESTIONS
EXAMPLE: CORE GAME FLOW ISN'T WORKING WELL IN CO-OP?

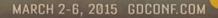




ASK THIS:

"CAN PLAYERS DECIDE WHICH PARTS OF THE SINGLE PLAYER EXPERIENCE THEY WANT?"





PROTIP: PERFECT IS ENEMY OF GOOD

MINIMIZING A PROBLEM CAN WORK NEARLY AS WELL AS SOLVING IT

BECAUSE CO-OP FUN WILL TRUMP IT



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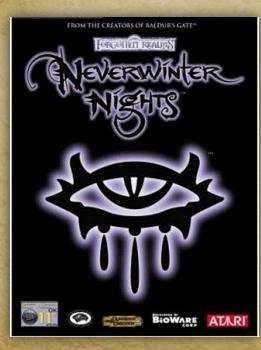
LOOT SO FAR

 RULE: IT'S NOT YOUR GAME, IT'S THEIRS
 VALUE: GIVE PLAYERS THE WHEEL





NEVERWINTER NIGHTS



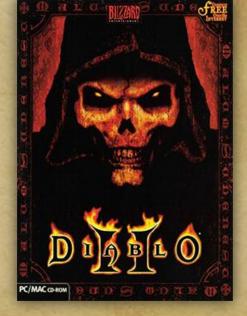


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PART III: NETWORK CO-OP IN DIABLO III PC

DIABLO

D I O B I O







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STORY OF DIABLO III PC CO-OP

Tæ

DIABLO

M

DIABLO

BUZZARD

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

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M

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DIABLO

DIABLO III: CO-OP FROM DAY I

+ THE FILTER: DØ NØ HARM TØ MULTIPLAYER + THE GØALS:

- SEAMLESS JOIN AND DROP
- BATTLE.NET COMMUNITY





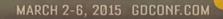
EARLY IN D3 DEVELOPMENT ...

- + STRUGGLES WITH STRUCTURE AND QUEST TECH
- + WHAT IS THE RIGHT LEVEL OF PLAYER FREEDOM?
- + GAME SPEED: FAST ALREADY, EVEN FASTER IN CO-OP









TOUGH DESIGN DISCUSSIONS

- + CUT SIDE QUESTS
- DECIDED PARTY INTEGRATION TRUMPED INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM
 - LIMITATION: PLAYERS HAD TO STAY WITHIN THE CURRENT ACT
 - NEW DECISION: PLAYERS MUST SHARE THE SAME QUEST



CATHEDRAL Torment I (70) 2:19 PM

YOUR FRIEND WENT HERE

 $\bigoplus B \mid E C \top I \lor E S$ Press (M) to open the Waypoint Map.

٦Ö

GIVING PLAYERS THE WHEEL VIA INFO

[Party]

<Nurfed> Indalamar has engaged: Carrion Bat!
 <Nurfed> Indalamar has killed a Carrion Bat!
 <Nurfed> Indalamar teleported to The Royal Crypts!
 <Nurfed> Indalamar has engaged: Zuul Filthpit!
 <Nurfed> Indalamar has killed Zuul Filthpit!
 <Nurfed> Indalamar has engaged: Rad'noj!

CHEICE GIVES CENTREL

ATTENTI⊕N!

ΦSS: THE CRYPT ΦF THE SKELETΦN KING

Triggered by <Nurfed> Indalamar

Remaining Time

58 Seconds

Press Accept to be instantly teleported to them Your party will teleport in when everyone has accepted.

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CO-OP VALUE

+ REMOVE BARRIERS

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LOOT SO FAR

 RULE: IT'S NOT YOUR GAME, IT'S THEIRS
 VALUE: GIVE PLAYERS THE WHEEL
 VALUE: REMOVE BARRIERS





D3 LAUNCH AND EARLY WEEKS





D3 LAUNCH AND EARLY WEEKS

PLAYING WITH FRIENDS WORKED GREAT GAME DESIGN DECISIONS KEPT GETTING IN THE WAY



★ SAME DANG QUESTS AGAIN??? ◆ YES, BUT HARDER ☺



UH OH

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INFERN⊕

IS THE LOOT TROLLING ME?

+ STINGY LØØT
+ BEST LØØT CAME LATER
+ CØ-ØP IS SUPPØSED TØ BE ADDITIVE?

WE MADE CO-OP WAY TOO HARD

+ THE MATH:

 PLAYER (100% DMG) + ANOTHER PLAYER (100% DMG) IS MORE THAN 200%

+ EXPECTED PRECISE TACTICAL GAMEPLAY:

♦ I.E. TEAMWORK REQUIRED TO SURVIVE

+ PROBLEMS:

SPEED AND KNOWLEDGE



A NOTE ON TACTICAL ROLES

 DIABLE IS AN ACTIEN GAME AS MUCH AS AN RPG
 RPG
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+ TACTICS ARE MORE REFLEX BASED THAN MOST RPGS







DIABLO

SEVERE DIFFICULTY LED TO:

* RANGED CLASSES LIVED IN KITE COUNTRY

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SEVERE DIFFICULTY LED TO:

THELEE MAXED OUT THE LIFE ON HIT STAT
SO WHENEVER SOMEONE JOINED YOUR GAME...



CAVE OF THE BETRAYER LEVEL I 2:10 PM

⊕B|ECTIVES Blood and Sand

X Get the Blood of Zoltun Kulle

Get the Blood of Zoltun Kulle from the Vault of the Assassin

from the Cave of the Betrayer

4



YOU HAVE DIED.

YOUR DEEDS OF VALOR WILL BE REMEMBERED

EXIT TO MENU

SEASON OF THE PATCH

TRIED TO
WE TRIED
WE TRIED



GETHER

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IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS

+ CO-OP BONUSES # MATCHMAKING TAGS + FRIENDS + SOCIAL UIS + CONTENT AND REWARDS



IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS



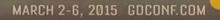


DESIGN RULE: GET OUT OF THE WAY

DØN'T CARE ABØUT THE STØRY DØN'T CARE WHY THEY CAN'T PLAY TØGETHER DØN'T CARE ABØUT BALANCE INITIALLY

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LOOT SO FAR

✓ RULE: IT'S NOT YOUR GAME, IT'S THEIRS RULE: SO GET OUT OF THE WAY VALUE: GIVE PLAYERS THE WHEEL VALUE: REMOVE BARRIERS





REAPER OF SOULS: THE NEXT LEVEL

ADVENTURE MODE

PLAY WHEN YOU
WANT TO
PLAY WHERE YOU
WANT TO



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PLAYER SELECTED DIFFICULTY

+ PLAY HOW YOU WANT TO + CO-OPALLOWS UTTER PLAYER DØMINATIØN + DIFFICULTY **KEEPS TENSION**



L++T 2.0

- PHILØSØPHY SHIFT: LESS IS MØRE
 MAJØR ITEM PØWER INCREASE
 THE HØUSE ALWAYS LØSES
 - WEIGHTED FOR THE PLAYER
 - SMART DROP
 - WAY MORE LEGENDARIES



L++T 2.0



Legendary Two-Handed Mighty

Barbarian

3,175.2

Damage Per Second

2644-3129 Damage 1.10 Attacks per Second

Primary

- +1182-1520 Arcane Damage
- +971 Strength
- +1091 Vitality
- +24,588 Life per Hit

Secondary

+24 Maximum Fury (Barbarian Only)
 Stun enemies for 2 seconds the first time you hit them.



ARCSTONE

Finger

Primary

- +424 Intelligence
- +442 Vitality
- Critical Hit Chance Increased by 5.0%
- Reduces cooldown of all skills by 7.0%.

Secondary

- +159 Cold Resistance
- Lightning pulses periodically between all wearers of this item, dealing 1442% weapon damage.

Robbers plundering an ancient tomb near Westmarch discovered forty two skeletons laid out in repose, each wearing one of these rings. Their origins and creators have been lost to the ages, but the Arcstone rings have returned.



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CO-OP VALUE: BUILD BRIDGES

PARTNER OF REMOVING BARRIERS REAPER OF SOULS IS WHERE WE FOUND OUR GROOVE



BUILDING BRIDGES

BR⊕₩SE C⊕M	MUNITIES	S			
All Categories		Rift it Forward		Bounty Runz	
English		123,105 Members 906 in Chat	Active in the last 24 Hours	70,559 Members 681 in Chat	Active in the last 24 Hours
				Bounty Split Farming	
		51,364 Members 316 in Chat	Active in the last 24 Hours	44,354 Members 517 in Chat	
		Rift it Forward 2		Rift Runz	
		38,446 Members 184 in Chat	Active in the last 24 Hours	37,804 Members 483 in Chat	Active in the last 24 Hours
		Power Leveling		Rift it Forward 3	
		33,043 Members 328 in Chat	Active in the last 24 Hours	27,037 Members 106 in Chat	Active in the last 24 Hours
		Demon Hunters			
		23,194 Members 491 in Chat		21;651 Members 203 in Chat	€MMUNITY Active in the last 24 Hours



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WE HAVE OUR WEAPONRY: RULES AND VALUES

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COUCH CO-OP IN DIABLO III CONSOLE

PART IV: BESS FIGHT

STORY OF DIABLO III CONSOLE COOP



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UNLEASH HELL IN YOUR LIVING ROOM



COUCH CO-OP MEETS SOCIAL MECHANICS

BEST IN SLOT DEMON HUNTER LEGENDARIES



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+ INTERPLA

R

RRIERS





TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

+ 4 PLAYERS ON ONE SCREEN HAD TECHNICAL AND ARTISTIC HURDLES
+ GAMEPLAY ISSUES
• LOOT AND UI



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TOO MUCH LOOT!

- + IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
 + INVENTORY MANAGEMENT WITH CONSOLE CONTROLLERS
- + 4 PEOPLE TRYING AT THE SAME TIME + DIABLO'S CORE LOOT PHILOSOPHY PROBLEMS





KICKED OFF THE LOOT FIXES

+ CONSOLE DIII SHIPPED BEFORE REAPER

+ CLEVER EXTRAS LIKE:

- TURN USELESS LOOT INTO GOLD AND DROP THAT
- FEWER ITEMS OVER ALL
- MORE GENEROUS DROP RATES FOR LEGENDARIES
- ETC.



3401 Gold Tranquil Ascended Greaves of the Castle 9122 Gold 3942 Gold Blood Shard (190) Kerykeion of Death 4329 Gold 3788 Gold Veiled Crystal 927 Gold Judgmental Grandfather Flail 3401 Gold Veiled Crystal Veiled Crystal 7422 Gold Veiled Crystal 🔨 Veiled Crystal 5179 Gold Marquise Ruby Veiled Crystal, Savage Diabolic Wand of Sabotage 35,795 Gold Marquise Diamond Health Potion Health Potion 5875 Gold 1082 Gold Health Potion Veiled Crystal (53) Veiled Crystal Marquise Ruby Health Potion Arcane Dust (7)

HOW IS LOOT DIVIDED?

+ STARTED BY ALTERNATING DROPS





HOW IS LOOT DIVIDED?

+ STARTED BY ALTERNATING DR#PS + IN UEE: ADDED TARGETED L##TING





PLAY THE GAME, NOT THE UI

+ EVENT QUEUE

- QUICK COMPARE FOR ITEMS
- ONE BUTTON EQUIP FOR BOTH ITEMS AND SKILLS



Bounty: Clear the Scavenger's Den Enter the Scavenger's Den Level 1

Kill all enemies in the Scavenger's Den Level 2



2



GIVING PLAYERS THE WHEEL

+ EVENT QUEUE: ALLOWED PLAYERS TO UPGRADE GEAR AND SKILLS WITHOUT SLOWING DOWN THEIR FRIENDS





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BUILDING ON THE CO-OP FOUNDATION

+ APPRENTICE MODE IS THE BEST BARRIER REMOVER







THE FINAL RESULT

3

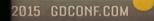
TECHNOLOGY - GAMING

Press Start: Diablo III is the ultimate console local co-op game

Diablo III: Reaper of Souls - Ultimate Evil Edition revives the idea of local co-op video games



Diablo III's co-op mode is one of the best to be part of a console game in years. PHOTO: HANDOUT/BLIZZARD



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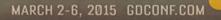
CO-OP RULES

IT'S NOT YOUR GAME, IT'S THEIRS



GET OUT OF THE WAY





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DEVELOPMENT VALUES

+ GIVE PLAYERS THE WHEEL

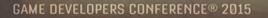
- EMPOWER THEM TO MAKE CO-OP WORK
- CAN YOU GIVE THEM TOOLS TO SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS?
- TIP: CO-OP FUN BEATS THE NEED FOR A PERFECT DESIGN SO DON'T TALK YOURSELF OUT OF IT



DEVELOPMENT VALUES

+ REMOVE BARRIERS

- DON'T LET REALISM OR BALANCE OR SPOILERS GET IN THE WAY
- THE CO-OP ENVIRONMENT MUST BE ADDITIVE
- APPLY YOUR FEATURES AND CONTENT TO REMOVE BARRIERS AND DON'T BE AFRAID TO TURN SOME OFF IN CO-OP





DEVELOPMENT VALUES

+ BUILD BRIDGES

- USE YOUR INTERFACE, AUDIO, PARTY ALIGNMENT, ETC. TO BUILD SOCIAL BONDS
- BE GENEROUS! REWARDS ARE ONE OF THE BEST BRIDGES



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

RULËS IT'S NOT YOUR GAME, SO GET OUT OF THE WAY

VALUES

 GIVE PLAYERS THE WHEEL
 REMOVE BARRIERS AND BUILD BRIDGES

