













DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTS

- Development Agreements from a Developer's Point of View
- Understanding Publisher's Point of View
- Negotiation
- Pitfalls
- Useful Clauses
- Hints 'n' Tips
- · Avoiding Disasters...



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DISCLAIMER

This presentation does not constitute legal advice. You should always seek professional legal advice from a qualified attorney before entering into any agreement. The sample clauses in the following slides are for illustration purposes only, and are not "model clauses"





PREPARATION

- Promote your Company not your Game
- Produce a Prototype Demo
- Allocate 3 to 6 months to do any Deal
- Appoint Experienced Attorneys Don't Pay them to get up to Speed in our Industry
- Research the Publishers
- Target Main Players
- Get Out There...!



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TO DO THE DEAL

- Enthusiasm for the Game
- Enthusiasm for the Publisher
- Know What You Want
- Don't Forget Exchange Rates
- Know the Sales of Comparable Games
- Think Long Term NOT Short Term



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THE FUNDAMENTALS

- Understand the Contract
- "Tracked Changes"
- Amend Contract yourself first, then...
- Send it to an Attorney
- Be Friendly in Negotiations
- Win the War not Individual Battles
- Publisher is Customer not Enemy!



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WORK FOR HIRE

- Europe -v- USA
- Creating Games is a Creative Process
- Know How, Tools & Technology
- BMW



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LICENSING

- Taxi Driver –v– Chauffeur
- Licence the Game
- Give the Publisher Reassurance via Contract



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THE GAME FORMULA

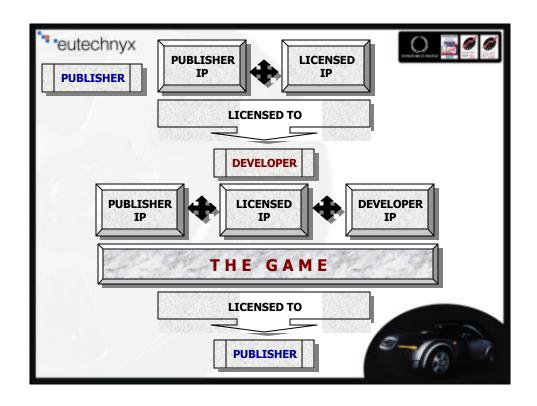
THE GAME =
DEVELOPER IP + PUBLISHER IP + LICENSED IP

Developer IP – Engine, Tools, Technology, Trade Marks, Design, Characters, Existing IP.

Publisher IP – Trade Marks, CGI, Translations, Existing Code, Existing IP.

Licensed IP – Vehicle Makers, Film Rights, TV Rights, Brand Rights & TMs, etc..









WIN-WIN

"The Developer hereby grants to the Publisher:

- (a) <u>an exclusive, worldwide, perpetual license to manufacture, publicly display, publicly perform, promote, market, sell, sublicense and distribute the Game;</u>
- (b) <u>a non-exclusive, worldwide, perpetual license to reproduce and use the Developer's IP to identify and promote the sale and distribution of the Game;</u>
- (c) <u>a non-exclusive</u>, <u>worldwide</u>, <u>perpetual license to reproduce</u>, <u>modify</u>, and use materials from the Game to create packaging, <u>advertising and/or marketing materials for the Game</u>; and,
- (d) the right to sublicense any or all of the rights above."



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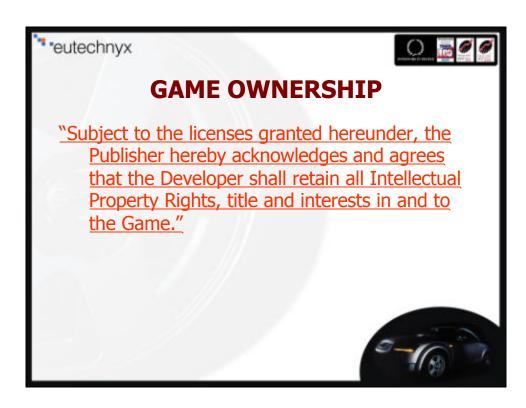


WORK FOR HIRE -v- LICENSE

- Persuasive Arguments...
 - Existing IP
 - Playable Demo
 - Specialism
 - Tools and Technology
 - Developer Concerns
 - Past Deals
 - Registered Trademarks
 - Buy Out of IP









SEQUELS & CONVERSIONS

- Partnership Approach
- Publisher or Developer wants to do Sequel or Conversion
- 60 Days Negotiation
- No Agreement Suggesting Party Free to do Sequel or Conversion subject to: -
- Last Matching Offer
- 15 Days to Match Offer



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ADVANCES

"Any development payments provided by the Publisher shall be considered to be non-refundable Advances against Royalties which may be otherwise due and payable to the Developer in accordance with the Milestone Schedule."

Advances -v- Payments





ROYALTIES

Aim for Clarity

"Net Receipts means the gross cash received by the Publisher and/or its Affiliate(s) from sales of units of the Game less manufacturing costs directly incurred by the Publisher and royalties due to third parties as a result of the manufacturing and/or distribution of the Game. For the avoidance of doubt and the purpose of this definition, proceeds of a sale by the Publisher to an Affiliate shall not be deemed a Net Receipt."

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CHANGE ORDER PROCEDURE

Essential in any software development agreement: -

- Parties agree Game specification in Design Document
- Amendments by either party have to be requested in writing
- Developer researches cost and timescale within a "Validity Period"
- Publisher decides whether they wish to proceed within "Validity Period"
- Developer amends Design Document and Milestone Schedule





MILESTONE DELIVERY

The Publisher will review the Milestone Deliverable and will within 20 (twenty) working days of receipt either:-

- (a) confirm its acceptance of the Milestone Deliverable; or
- (b) reject it, in which event the Developer will promptly amend and resubmit the Milestone Deliverable to the Publisher.



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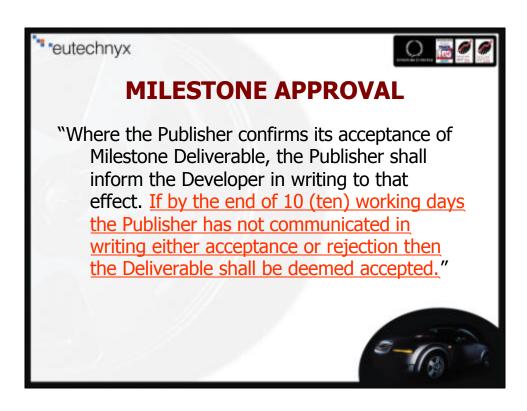
MILESTONE DELIVERY

The Publisher will review the Milestone Deliverable and will within [20 (twenty)] 5 (five) working days of receipt using good faith judgement either:-

(a) confirm its acceptance of the Milestone Deliverable in writing; or written details of the shortcomings in the Deliverables







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MILESTONE FAILURE

"If the Publisher shall in its absolute discretion afford the Developer an opportunity to resubmit any Milestone Deliverable as set out above and either the Developer fails to resubmit the relevant Milestone Deliverable within the time limit specified by the Publisher or such Milestone Deliverable is still unacceptable to the Publisher, the Publisher shall, without prejudice to any other rights or remedies the Publisher may have under this Agreement, exercise its takeover rights and/or terminate this Agreement."





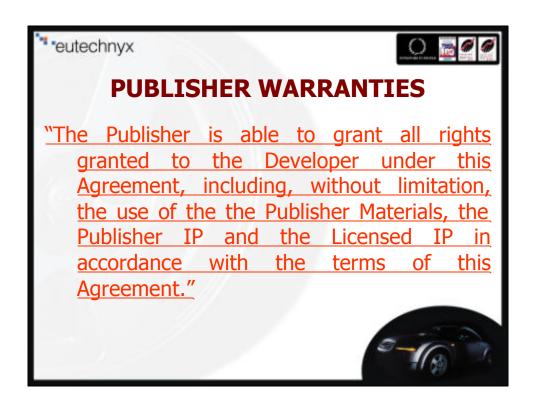
MILESTONE FAILURE

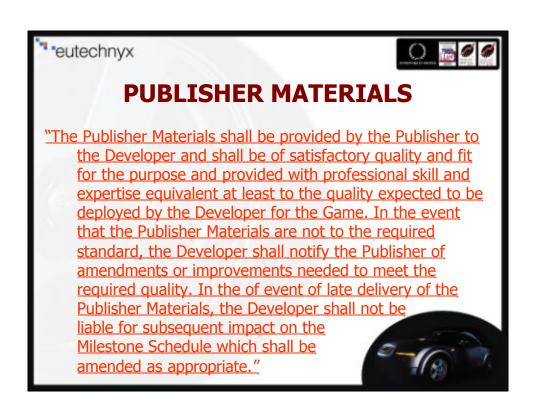
"If within two (2) calendar months of the first submission of the Milestone

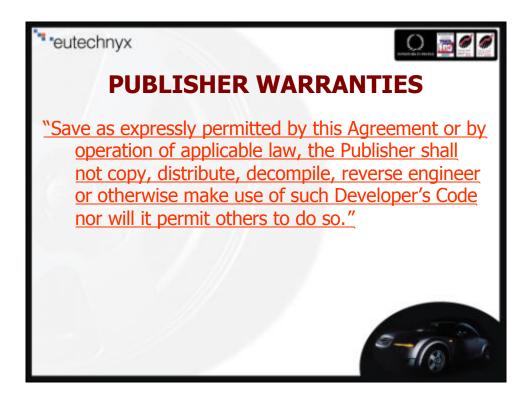
Deliverable either [the Publisher shall in its absolute discretion afford
the Developer an opportunity to resubmit any Milestone Deliverable
as set out above and either] the Developer fails to resubmit the
relevant Milestone Deliverable [within the time limit specified by the
Publisher] or such Milestone Deliverable is still unacceptable to the
Publisher due to shortcomings in the Milestone Deliverable from the
specification in the Design Document, the Publisher shall, without
prejudice to any other rights or remedies the Publisher may have
under this Agreement, exercise its takeover rights and/or terminate
this Agreement provided that any periods in which the Deliverables
are being tested by either of the Publisher or a
Hardware Manufacturer shall not be calculated
towards the delay period referred to above."















"The Developer shall promptly provide fixes or workarounds for any bugs or other errors, defects or omissions discovered in the Game and reported to the Developer within six (6) months following the Publishers first commercial release of the the Game."







INDEMNITIES

- Get Good Trade Insurance
- Send Copies of your Agreements to your Insurers and get their Approval in Writing
- Any Problems Run Your Own Defense
- Do Not Give Publisher the Right to Settle
- Limit your Liability do not Bet the Company on one Contract





TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

"The Publisher may terminate this Agreement on written notice to the Developer at any time prior to the Acceptance Date without giving any reason for its own convenience."

- Critical clause in the current marketplace
- Negotiation could save your company



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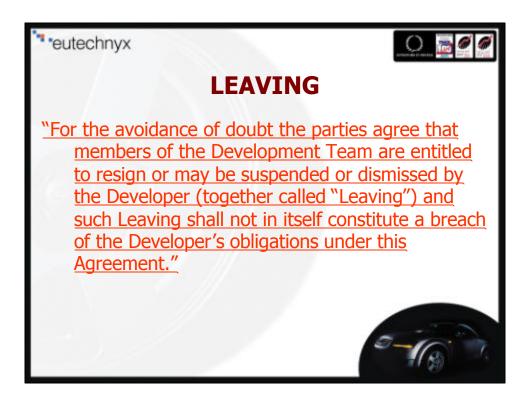


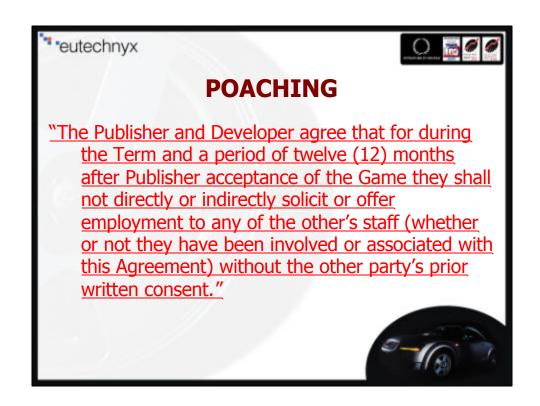
TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

"The Publisher may terminate this Agreement on 30 (thirty) days written notice to the Developer at any time prior to the Acceptance Date without giving any reason for its own convenience and the Publisher shall pay the Developer for all Milestones submitted up to the date of termination plus the sum of \$500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars) as compensation for peremptory termination and all rights granted to the Publisher by Developer in the Developer IP shall immediately revert to Developer, and all rights in the Game other than Publisher IP and Licensed IP shall be assigned by the Publisher to Developer."











THE PRODUCER

"The Publisher will designate a Producer as Developer's principal interface with the Publisher in connection with this Agreement. All services must be co-ordinated with the Producer and the Developer shall be entitled to rely on the statements and instructions of the Producer as the authorized expression of the Publisher's intentions with respect to the performance of this Agreement. The Producer shall be responsible for Approval of Milestones. The Publisher shall consult with Developer in sufficient time to obtain the views of Developer to any proposed changes to the the Producer, and shall not change the Producer without first obtaining the prior written approval of Developer, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld."

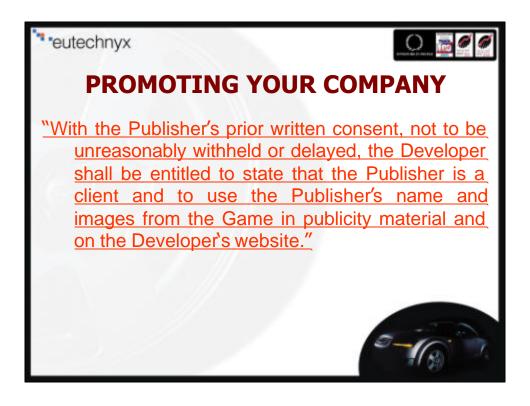
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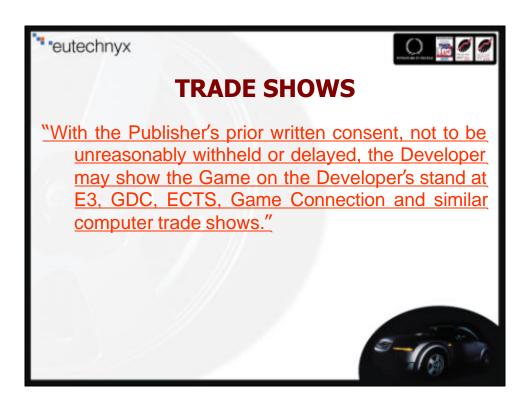


DEVELOPER CREDIT

"The Publisher will ensure that the following notice appears in the Game and in the manual of the Game:

- (i) © 2004 The Developer Inc.. All Rights Reserved. Design and Software Technology © 2004 The Developer Inc.. "Name of Game" is a registered trademark of The Developer Inc..
- (ii) the Developer Logo is included in the Game and on the packaging and marketing materials in the position and size agreed between the parties from time to time.
- (iii) the names of the Developer's staff involved in the production of the Game."









GENERAL CONTRACT TIPS

- Be "reasonable" <u>"reasonable"</u> costs, "reasonable" requests, etc.
- Be Aware of "Best Endeavors" use <u>"Reasonable</u>
 <u>Commercial Endeavors</u>" instead
- Timescales or actions should be <u>"mutually agree"</u>
- Any requests for permission should "not be unreasonably withheld, delayed or conditioned"
- Any breaches should be <u>"material"</u>
- Immediately should be "promptly"



** eutechnyx SUMMARY • You Get What You Can Negotiate • Learn Contract Fundamentals

- Learn Contract Fundamentals
- Good IP Attorney
- Win Win is Key
- Know What you Bring to the Table
- Be Friendly Publishers are Customers
- Enjoy the Process!





