

Quit Re-inventing the Wheel: Six Concrete Suggestions For Improving Your Game Studies Course

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1. Let them cheat



Please put
headphones
on - this
game is about
sound!

Click Mouse
button to
start

Press
'R'
to restart



2. Learning and Teaching to Play Hardcore Games



For the hard-core player

- What was the most difficult thing to learn for the new player?
- Did they manage to improve in the game with your instruction?
- Did they give up? If so, why?

For the non-hardcore player

- What was the most helpful hint your experienced partner gave you?
- Now that you've been introduced to the game, would you continue playing? If so, why?



3. Making Let's Plays

[with thanks to Mark Chen for the
original idea]





4. The Creation of the Journalistic Discourse

Clara Fernandez-Vara
and Bennett Foddy



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Software Library: MS-DOS Games


2,668 ITEMS



The Software Library: Apple Computer




Software Library: Windows 3.x



Oregon Trail, The

by MECC


1.9M 1,221 146



Prince of Persia

by Jul 29, 2014


841,430 709 33



Wolfenstein 3D

by id Software, Inc.

522,739 593 10



Pac-Man

by Namco Limited

489,796 112 1

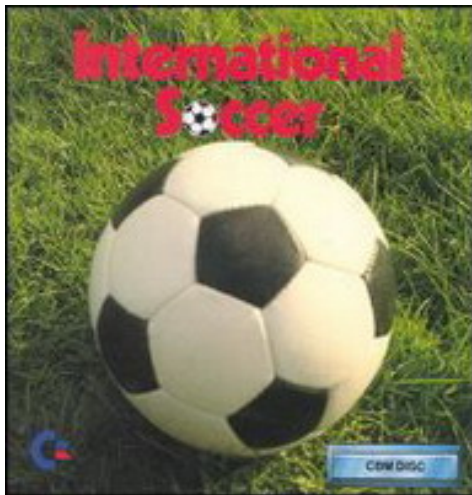
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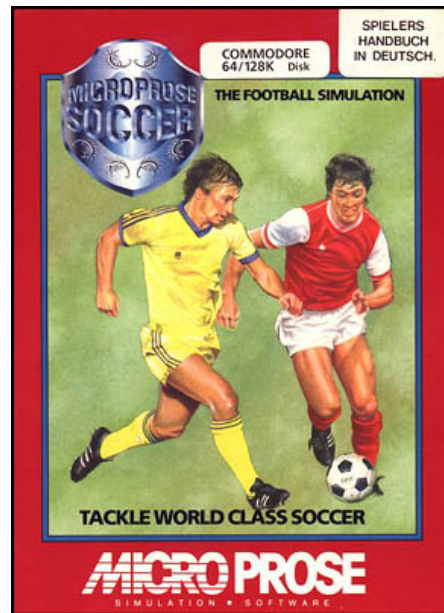
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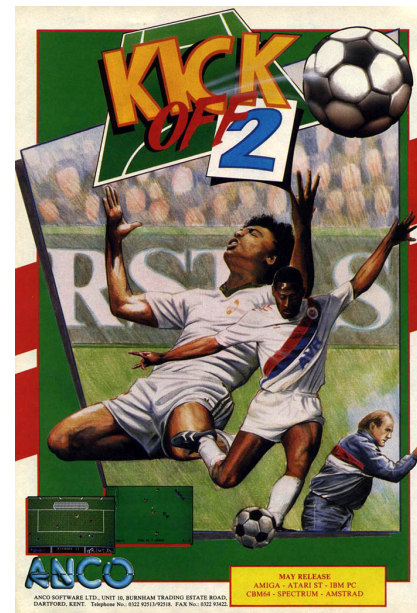
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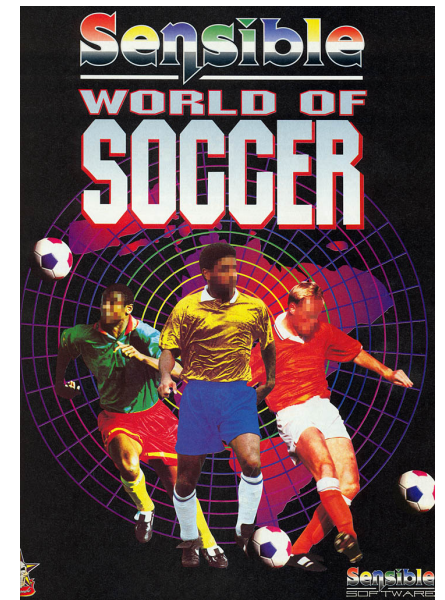
Andrew Spencer
(Commodore 64, 1983)



(Commodore 64, 1988)



(Commodore Amiga, 1990)



(Commodore Amiga, 1994)

5. Studying Players



Questions about ethics and games
























Have you ever made a decision in a game that you later felt bad about? If so, did you correct your choice? Overall, how do you justify objectionable decisions?

Is there anything (action, decision) in a game that would make you stop playing?

Is there any topic that should be off limits in games?

What differences do you see between different games' ethical dilemmas?

When you play, do you do so as yourself or as a separate character? How does this affect the choices you make?

- ▶  Ahmad's Transcripts
- ▶  Brad's Transcripts
- ▶  Colin's Transcripts
- ▶  COMS498H Interviews Combined
- ▶  Dana's Transcripts
- ▶  Ellen's Transcripts
- ▶  Erica's transcripts
- ▶  Genevieve's Transcripts
- ▶  Henri's transcripts
- ▶  Hogberg_Elise- INTERVIEWS
- ▶  Jessica Munro's Transcripts
- ▶  Jessica Zeitz Transcripts
- ▶  Joey's Transcripts
- ▶  Lesley's Transcripts
- ▶  Mathew's Transcripts
- ▶  Natasha's Transcripts
- ▶  Niki Transcripts
- ▶  SAMPLE_TRANSCRIPT
- ▶  Sarah's Transcripts
- ▶  Sean's Transcripts
- ▶  Stefania's Transcripts
- ▶  Stephanie's Transcripts
- ▶  Tiffany's 3 Transcript



6. Exploring How Platforms Shape Games



Wanted: Monty Mole (Commodore 64, 1984)



Wanted: Monty Mole (ZX Spectrum, 1984)



Metal Gear (MSX2, 1987)



Metal Gear (NES, 1987)



bonus material on failure

GAME OVER

You cannot give
up just yet...

For more ideas:

- Report of the DiGRA Workshop (2015)
- Report of the FDG Workshop (2014)
- Free reports + syllabi available at <https://teachinggamestudies.wordpress.com/>

Teaching Game Studies: DiGRA 2015 Edition



At the DiGRA 2015 conference, we again held our workshop, spread over two sessions during the conference itself. More than forty people participated in the sessions, and we gathered more great ideas for how to teach game studies. We've compiled the notes from both sessions into a document, available here for download. Please feel free to circulate this report with other instructors, and let us know if you have other valuable ideas to share. [Report of DiGRA TGS Workshop 2015](#)

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Thank you!

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