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The Ultimate History of Video Games

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The Ultimate History of Video Games

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The Ultimate History of Video Games

Posted on October 1, 2003 by Editor

By Jeffrey Barlow <barlowj@pacificu.edu>


For those of us of a certain age, it is very difficult to take video games seriously. We have argued elsewhere, however, that there are many reasons to do so. [1] The most often cited such reason is simply that the industry makes far more money than does Hollywood.

For those who are interested in computer gaming, or its place in the cultural impact of the Internet, we would still regard Kushner’s Masters of Doom as the masterpiece in the genre, but there are many books that are worth reading. The Ultimate History of Video Games is essentially an encyclopedic history of the industry, organized by the chronological development of important segments of it, focused upon the games themselves and their creators, and those who managed to make them an economic force through clever merchandising and distribution.

The primary virtue of The Ultimate History of Video Games is that the author managed to interview almost everyone of significance (and he tells us who he failed to interview) in the development of the industry, from programmers and artists to CEOs and venture capitalists. Another virtue of the book is that it pays real attention to development outside the United States, and particularly to the development of gaming in Japan and its subsequent impact in the U.S. It was particularly interesting to learn that Japan, long thought to be hostile to the more spontaneous and informal ways of the computer industry, was the place where many American video game entrepreneurs and their companies in fact began.

This focus upon key personalities in the development of particular segments of the industry gives the reader a very broad view. We see the industry through the eyes of creative programmers who cared little for the money to be earned, and then later through the eyes of managerial types who saw the games as just another form of product, and one in which they personally were little interested.

Kent also does an excellent job of putting the industry into the context of .com capitalism. The
morphs, mergers, sudden disappearances, and remarkable rebirths of some of the companies in the industry would themselves make a passable game.

At present it would be easy to argue that the international collectivity of computer gamers still exist largely under our cultural radar. They seem to be little more than an epiphenomenal impact of the Internet. For millions internationally, however, the impact is significant indeed. If you want to understand the historical development of that industry, and the many fascinating personalities who have contributed to its growth, you might well secure a copy of The Ultimate History… .

Jeffrey Barlow
Editor, Interface.


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31 THOUGHTS ON "THE ULTIMATE HISTORY OF VIDEO GAMES"

social network
on January 30, 2014 at 11:37 AM said:

A person basically assist to create much articles or blog posts I would state. This can be the very first time I frequented your internet site document and up to now? I amazed with the analysis you created to generate this genuine article extraordinary. Very good task!

emails coming from my account
on January 30, 2014 at 1:06 PM said:

Hello! I’ve been following your website for a while now and finally got the bravery to go ahead and give you a shout out from Porter Tx! Just wanted to mention keep up the fantastic work!
on February 1, 2014 at 3:40 AM said:

for that finest price around the industry super true all


on February 1, 2014 at 4:06 AM said:

Have you ever considered about adding a little bit
more than just your articles? I mean, what you say is important and all.
Nevertheless just imagine if you added some
great visuals or videos to give your posts more, “pop”!

Your content is excellent but with images and video clips, this blog could definitely be one
of the greatest in its niche.
Good blog!


Kids make

on February 1, 2014 at 9:05 AM said:

Every weekend i used to pay a visit this web site, as
i wish for enjoyment, as this this site conations truly good funny
information too.


nigeria

on February 3, 2014 at 1:32 AM said:

I will promptly clutch your rss as I can’t in finding your email subscription link or
newsletter service.
temat
on February 3, 2014 at 1:56 AM said:

Great blog correct here! Additionally your site loads up very fast! What host are you the usage of? Can I get your associate link on your host? I wish my website loaded up as quickly as yours lol

make money online jamaica
on February 3, 2014 at 3:21 PM said:

Everything is very open with a precise description of the challenges. 
It was truly informative. Your website is very useful. Many thanks for sharing!

bible work
on February 3, 2014 at 11:12 PM said:

Good day! Do you know if they make any plugins to help with Search Engine Optimization? I’m trying to get my blog to rank for some targeted keywords but I’m not seeing very good success. If you know of any please share. Appreciate it!

can you make money with apps
on February 4, 2014 at 12:41 AM said:

Hi! I know this is kinda off topic but I was wondering if you knew where I could locate a captcha plugin for my comment form? I’m using the same blog platform as yours and I’m having difficulty finding one? Thanks a lot!
Hello there, You’ve done a fantastic job. I’ll certainly digg it and personally recommend to my friends. I’m confident they will be benefited from this web site.

This post is worth everyone’s attention. Where can I find out more?

Awesome things here. I’m very satisfied to look your article. Thank you so much and I’m looking forward to contact you.

Will you kindly drop me a e-mail?

With havin so much written content do you ever run into any issues of plagorism or copyright violation? My blog has a lot of completely unique content I’ve either written myself or outsourced but it seems a lot of it is popping it up all over the web without my authorization. Do you know any methods to help protect against content from being stolen?

I’d certainly appreciate it.
Amber  
on February 4, 2014 at 8:57 AM said:

Awesome! Its in fact remarkable piece of writing, I have got much clear idea on the topic of from this paragraph.

Kennith  
on February 4, 2014 at 9:51 AM said:

It’s very effortless to find out any matter on net as compared to books, as I found this post at this web site.

dating  
on February 4, 2014 at 10:19 AM said:

This is my very first time pay a visit at right here and i am actually impressed to read everthing at alone place.

platinum Ira  
on February 4, 2014 at 10:47 AM said:

It’s very simple to find out any matter on web as compared to books, as I found this article at this web site.

Arietha  
on February 4, 2014 at 11:29 AM said:

An intriguing discussion is definitely worth comment. I do believe that you ought to publish more on this topic, it may not be a taboo subject but typically people don’t talk about these subjects.
To the next! Cheers!!

internet marketing real estate  
on February 4, 2014 at 11:32 AM said:

This page really has all the information I needed concerning this subject and didn’t know who to ask.

precious metals weights  
on February 4, 2014 at 2:19 PM said:

Hello, I check your blogs daily. Your writing style is awesome, keep it up!

u.s. gold bureau  
on February 4, 2014 at 2:38 PM said:

Hi there, I read your blog like every week.  
Your writing style is witty, keep it up!

Meet joe black  
on February 4, 2014 at 4:09 PM said:

Hey very nice web site!! Guy .. Beautiful .. Wonderful ..  
I’ll bookmark your website and take the feeds also? I’m satisfied to seek out numerous useful information here in the post, we’d like develop more techniques in this regard, thank you for sharing.  
. . . . .
gold yahoo Finance
on February 4, 2014 at 4:17 PM said:

Excellent blog here! Also your web site loads up very fast!
What host are you using? Can I get your affiliate link to your host?
I wish my website loaded up as fast as yours lol

chase credit card
on February 4, 2014 at 5:45 PM said:

obviously like your web site but you need to take a look at the
spelling on several of your posts. Many of them are rife with spelling issues
and I to find it very troublesome to tell the truth then again I
will surely come back again.

mobile gmail
on February 4, 2014 at 7:01 PM said:

Howdy! I could have sworn I've visited this blog before but after looking at a few of
the articles I realized it's new to me. Anyways, I'm definitely
delighted I discovered it and I'll be book-marking it and checking back regularly!

personal finances
on February 4, 2014 at 7:29 PM said:

Good web site you have here.. It's hard to find excellent writing like yours nowadays.

I truly appreciate people like you! Take care!!

Manual
on February 4, 2014 at 7:47 PM said:

May I simply say what a relief to uncover a person that genuinely understands what they are talking about on the internet. You definitely know how to bring an issue to light and make it important. A lot more people should look at this and understand this side of your story. It’s surprising you’re not more popular given that you most certainly have the gift.

Adrienne
on February 4, 2014 at 8:20 PM said:

Hello there, You have done an excellent job. I will definitely digg it and personally suggest to my friends. I’m sure they will be benefited from this site.

money horoscope
on February 4, 2014 at 8:28 PM said:

I blog frequently and I really appreciate your information. This great article has really peaked my interest. I’m going to bookmark your site and keep checking for new details about once a week. I subscribed to your Feed too.

website builder os x free
on February 5, 2014 at 4:56 AM said:

Nice post. I learn something new and challenging on websites I stumbleupon everyday. It will always be exciting to read articles from other authors and practice something from their web sites.