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**Design Document for:**

# Project Hephaestus

**Historical Blacksmith Simulator**

“Something funny here!”™

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Version # 1.00

Wednesday, October 23, 2019Table of Contents

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# Design History

This is a brief explanation of the history of this document.

In this paragraph describe to the reader what you are trying to achieve with the design history. It is possible that they don’t know what this is for and you need to explain it to them.

## Version 1.10

Version 1.10 includes some tuning and tweaking that I did after making my initial pass at the design. Here is what I changed.

1. I rewrote the section about what systems the game runs on.
2. I incorporated feedback from the team into all parts of the design however no major changes were made.
3. Just keep listing your changes like this.

## Version 2.00

Version 2.00 is the first version of the design where a major revision has been made now that much more is known about the game. After many hours of design, many decisions have been made. Most of these large design decisions are now reflected in this document.

Included in the changes are:

1. Pairing down of the design scope. (Scope, not design)
2. More detailed descriptions in many areas, specifically A, B and C.
3. Story details.
4. World layout and design.

## Version 2.10

Version 2.10 has several small changes over that of version 2.00. The key areas are in many of the appendixes.

Included in the changes are:

1. Minor revisions throughout entire document.
2. Added “User Interface Appendix”.
3. Added “Game Object Properties Appendix”.
4. Added concept sketch for world.

# Game Overview

## Philosophy

### Philosophical point #1

This game is trying to do this and that. Fundamentally I am trying to achieve something that has never been achieved before. Or. This game will not try and change the world. We are ripping off the competition so exactly that I can’t believe it. The world will be shocked at how we are using an existing engine with new art.

### Philosophical point #2

Our game only runs on Compaq computers. The reason for this is such and such. We believe the world is coming to and end anyhow so what difference does it make?

### Philosophical point #3

When you create some of these overarching philosophical points about your design, say whatever you want. Also, feel free to change it to “My game design goals” or whatever you like to call it.

## Common Questions

### What is the game?

Describe the game is a paragraph. This is the answer to the most common question that you will be asked. What are you working on?

### Why create this game?

Why are you creating this game? Do you love 3D shooters? Do you think there is a hole in the market for Jell-O tossing midgets?

### Where does the game take place?

Describe the world that your game takes place in. Simple as that. Help frame it in the reader’s mind by spending a few sentences on it here. You can go into lengthy detail later in a section solely dedicated to describing the world. Remember that we want to keep this part of the design light and readable.

### What do I control?

Describe what the player will control. You will be in charge of a band of rabid mutant fiddle players. If you want you can switch on the AI and turn it into a fish bowl simulation.

### How many characters do I control?

If this applies talk a little more about the control choices. Remember to add answers to questions that you think the reader will ask. This is totally dependent on your design.

### What is the main focus?

Now that we know where the game takes place and what the player controls. What are they supposed to achieve in this world? Angry fiddle players take over the U.N. building. Be careful not to add a bunch of salesmanship here. Your design wants to stay light and informative.

### What’s different?

Tell them what is different from the games that are attempting this in the market right now. This question comes up a lot.

# Feature Set

## General Features

Huge world

Mutant fiddle players

3D graphics

32-bit color

## Multiplayer Features

Up to 10 million players

Easy to find a game

Easy to find your pal in huge world

Can chat over voice link

## Editor

Comes with world editor

Get levels from internet

Editor is super easy to use

## Gameplay

List stuff here that is key to the gameplay experience

List a lot of stuff here

Hey, if you got nothing here, is this game worth doing?

# The Game World

## Overview

Provide an overview to the game world.

## World Feature #1

This section is not supposed to be called world feature #1 but is supposed to be titled with some major thing about the world. This is where you break down what is so great about the game world into component pieces and describe each one.

## World Feature #2

Same thing here. Don’t sell too hard. These features should be awesome and be selling the game on its own.

## The Physical World

### Overview

Describe an overview of the physical world. Then start talking about the components of the physical world below in each paragraph.

The following describes the key components of the physical world.

### Key Locations

Describe the key locations in the world here.

### Travel

Describe how the player moves characters around in the world.

### Scale

Describe the scale that you will use to represent the world. Scale is important!

### Objects

Describe the different objects that can be found in the world.

See the “Objects Appendix” for a list of all the objects found in the world.

### Weather

Describe what sort of weather will be found in the world, if any. Otherwise omit this section. Add sections that apply to your game design.

### Day and Night

Does your game have a day and night mode? If so, describe it here.

### Time

Describe the way time will work in your game or whatever will be used.

## Rendering System

### Overview

Give an overview of how your game will be rendered and then go into detail in the following paragraphs.

### 2D/3D Rendering

Describe what sort of 2D/3D rendering engine will be used.

## Camera

### Overview

Describe the way the camera will work and then go into details if the camera is very complicated in sub sections.

### Camera Detail #1

The camera will move around like this and that.

### Camera Detail #2

The camera will sometimes move like this in this special circumstance.

## Game Engine

### 

### Overview

Unreal Engine is one of the most popular game engines in big industry game development. This is due to its ability to be modified enough to create games with more unique experiences, as well as the friendly support it holds to none programmers. Offering all of the same features as Unity, Unreal also presents a Blueprint system. This allows programmers to develop mechanics and features for good use that can be implemented in a more customisable manner by none programmers. This lets the Engineers design robust mechanics freely without worrying about the none programmers being unable to implement and customise them easily.

On top of this, Unreal is a strong platform for developing larger scale games. Project Hephaestus is designed with the potential to grow large scale, and the long-term development of the game would be more suited on an engine that would support that whilst delivering unique experiences from mechanics across levels.

For these reasons, prototyping of the game will focus on using Unreal Engine. If there are problems with development on this engine then Unity can be used and tested as an alternative, but development should progress with the intention of using Unreal.

### Game Engine Detail #1

The Engine will support VR and by utilising the Blueprint system it will support the creation of customizable mechanics

### Interaction

The focus will be interactive mechanics in VR. Team members will be able to focus on accurate interactive elements by customising mechanics to suit the current needs between levels.

### Lighting and FX

Unreal will present strong abilities for high quality lighting and FX to create a more immersive atmosphere

## Lighting Models

### Overview

Describe the lighting model you are going to use and then go into the different aspects of it below.

### Lighting Model Detail #1

We are using the xyz technique to light our world.

### Lighting Model Detail #2

We won’t be lighting the eggplants in the game because they are purple.

# The World Layout

## Overview

Provide an overview here.

## World Layout Detail #1

## World Layout Detail #2

# Game Characters

## Overview

Over of what your characters are.

## Creating a Character

How you create or personalize your character.

## Enemies and Monsters

Describe enemies or monsters in the world or whomever the player is trying to defeat. Naturally this depends heavily on your game idea but generally games are about trying to kill something.

# User Interface

## Overview

Provide some sort of an overview to your interface and same as all the previous sections, break down the components of the UI below.

## User Interface Detail #1

## User Interface Detail #2

# Weapons

## Overview

Overview of weapons used in game.

## Weapons Details #1

## Weapons Details #2

# Musical Scores and Sound Effects

## Overview

This should probably be broken down into two sections but I think you get the point.

## Red Book Audio

If you are using Red Book then describe what your plan is here. If not, what are you using?

## 3D Sound

Talk about what sort of sound APIs you are going to use or not use as the case may be.

## Sound Design

Take a shot at what you are going to do for sound design at this early stage. Hey, good to let your reader know what you are thinking.

# Single-Player Game

## Overview

Describe the single-player game experience in a few sentences.

Here is a breakdown of the key components of the single player game.

## Single Player Game Detail #1

## Single Player Game Detail #2

## Story

Describe your story idea here and then refer them to an appendix or separate document which provides all the details on the story if it is really big.

## Hours of Gameplay

Talk about how long the single-player game experience is supposed to last or what your thoughts are at this point.

## Victory Conditions

How does the player win the single-player game?

# Research

## Overview

As the artefact will be a serious game, it is important that the game is historically accurate, ensuring factually correct information is being taught to the user. The development of a serious game requires a person with expertise in the field of which the game is being centred around to ensure to the pedagogical aspect of the serious game is fulfilled, however due to the lack of having a member with extensive knowledge in smithing, research must be undertaken to ensure factually correct content will be implemented into the game.

Therefore each team member has conducted their own research on specific periods, locations and types of Smiths which will contribute to the level design of the artefact.

## Smithing

A Smith is a craftsman who fashions useful items out of metal with the application of heat and force generated by a hammer. The history of Smithing methods has remained consistent throughout but has generated different types of Smiths. These are:

* A Blacksmith is what is usually referred to as “Smith”, working mainly with iron and steel materials. They usually specialise in the forging of horseshoes, but also work in other tools and weapons. Their essential equipment consisted of a forge or furnace as well as an Anvil, Tongs, Hammers, Chisels, and other equipment to cut and shape, flatten or weld into the desired object.
* A Bladesmith mainly specialised in the creation of blades such as knives, swords, daggers, and bladed cutlery.
* A Brownsmith or Coppersmith mainly specialised in using Copper and Brass to create items and was the earliest form of Smithing as Copper and Brass are soft and easy to manipulate.
* Coinsmiths are specialised in the creation or manipulation of coins, with modern day Coinsmiths recreating vintage and modern-day coin jewellery. A Moneyer is a Coinsmith who is officially permitted to mint money.
* A Goldsmith specialises in manipulating Gold in the creation of various Gold items.
* A Gunsmith specialises in the repairs, modifications, designs and building of firearm weaponry. This requires a high level of skill in machinery, woodwork and engineering.
* A Locksmith works in the creation and repair of locks, keys, and other security systems (in modern day)
* A Silversmith works with Silver in the creation of various Silver items.
* A Swordsmith is a Bladesmith specialised further in the creation of different swords.
* A Tinsmith, Tinner or Tinker works with light metals such as tinware.
* A Weapon-smith forges various weapons.
* An Armourer specialises in the creation of plate armour and may also repair weapons.

By covering these different styles of Smiths, levels can have an additional layer of depth in teaching about different artisans of the trade along with the different eras and locations. Personality can be crafted to create immersion as well as narrowing down the experience across levels for diversity.

Smith techniques follow the process lined out by the Blacksmith category. They differ not only on the items that they create or materials that they use, but also in the ways that they utilise these methods. Different heat applications, timing, and hammering techniques all come together to create this. It will be the Tech Leads responsibility to design and create these mechanics in an adaptable way to be used in various and unique ways.

## Level Structure

Levels throughout the project will follow through 5 categories, each containing individual levels. The main aim is to take the player through multiple levels in each era, exploring how different areas were developing in a linear fashion. The player will complete each level, advancing through the era. On completion of all available levels in the era, the player will be able to move through to the next era. UI will have the levels organized into individual categories to reflect progression and ease of navigation on level selection.

## Bronze Age

## Mesopotamia

The choice was made to create a level focused in the Bronze Era. As none of the pre-researched eras fit into the Bronze Era, new research was conducted to determine a suitable setting for a Bronze Era level. Mesopotamia was an ancient region that spanned across the Eastern Mediterranean, corresponding to today’s Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey (Mark, 2018). Considered to be the cradle of civilisation, Mesopotamia is credited for many firsts in History, such as the invention of the wheel (Bertman, 2005), and has a very long rich history as it prospered from the Pre-Pottery Neolithic Age (10,000 BCE) until the Classical Antiquity age (7th Century CE).

The Bronze Age of Mesopotamia can be broken into 4 eras. The Copper Age (5,900 BCE – 3,200 BCE), was the era in which Mesopotamia transitioned from stone to Copper. During this period areas of Mesopotamia saw advancement, gaining the first Temples and unwalled Villages away from their sporadic settlements of single dwellings. From there, the Early Bronze Age (3,000 BCE – 2,119 BCE) saw Bronze supplant Copper and the rapid growth of City-states to establish economic and political stability, leading to rise of Akkadian Empire. The Middle Bronze Age (2,119 BCE – 1,700 BCE) saw the expansion of Assyrian Kingdoms and the rise of the Babylonian Dynasty. With this came increased warfare. Finally, the Late Bronze Age (1,700 BCE – 1,100 BCE) gained more shifts on power and the expansion of culture, which further lead to the discovery of mining ore and crafting Iron. Throughout these eras, the most interesting is the 200-year space between the Copper Age and Early Bronze Age.

As the first area of the game, utilising Copper to craft a personal seal would give an identity for the player. At the time, seals were considered the equivalent of modern-day identification cards and would be an important item for the player. Given the ability, this could give a small function of customisation for the player and can be used as a way to stamp and authenticate their favourite work (giving a favourites category). Starting here could be a small tutorial of the most basic functional mechanics of the game. Then, as the tutorial progresses to introduce the Job Board system, as well as giving the player the chance to try the mechanics for themselves, Bronze can be used to introduce the economy system for upgrading and purchasing new materials. The first bronze crafting item could be “The Shadow Stick”, a Mesopotamian Sundial. This could be done with a wooden version given to the player, with the request of crafting a Bronze version, and introduce the timer mechanics.

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## Iron Age

**Egypt**

## Medieval Age

**Japan**

## Industrial Age

**France**

The Industrial Age was a key era in the advancement of civilisation, being the time of innovation in new manufacturing processes through the introduction of machinery into factories, beginning notably in Great Britain around the 18th century. This development was a major toll on vocations such as smithing, as they relied mostly on the handiwork of trained humans, who could now be replaced by machines which can work with greater power and speed. Although the profession of smithing did begin to lose prominence due to this advancement, some types of smiths still retained their profession.

Most notable is silversmithing in France – due to silver having more than just utilitarian purposes, such as jewellery and household ornaments, the ownership of silver was viewed as a sign of wealth and status. Training to become a master silversmith took rigorous training, taking up to eleven years: eight years spent as an apprentice, 2-3 years as a journey, followed by a final trial (“masterpiece”), that if passed meant the obtainment of master status. The French are known also to have the highest standard of silver, using 958 parts of out 1000.

At this stage of the game, silver could be offered to the player as a new material to craft, creating items such as cutlery (e.g. teaspoons, forks), necklaces/bracelets or teapots, as these were common items in wealthy French households. Silver is also a recyclable material, meaning silversmiths can melt down old/unused silver items and reform into ingots to create new silver products. This gives the possible complexity to the internal economy of allowing the player to either use old items they may have made out of silver or spend money on buying new silver ingots. Hallmarking is also a very important process in creating silver or gold items, being the process of making a mark on metal items to certify its quality, acting as an indication of the content of noble metals (e.g. silver, gold, platinum) in the metal. This could mean the requirement for the player of creating a good quality product would include ensuring their item is appropriately hallmarked.

## Modern Age

**America**

# Character Rendering

## Overview

Provide an overview as to how your characters will be rendered. You may have decided to include this elsewhere or break it out to provide more detail to a specific reader.

## Character Rendering Detail #1

## Character Rendering Detail #2

# World Editing

## Overview

As part of the deep interaction elements, players will have mild use of editing the world around them when interacting. This will focus on editing in world UI elements to be organised and placed as they see fit, but could potentially include some form of area customisation to create their own forge layout.

## World Editing Detail #1

## World Editing Detail #2

# Extra Miscellaneous Stuff

## Overview

Drop anything you are working on and don’t have a good home for here.

## Junk I am working on…

Crazy idea #1

Crazy idea #2

# “XYZ Appendix”

Provide a brief description of what this appendix is for and then get down to business and provide data to the reader.

Here are a few examples of some of the appendices in my latest design…

# “Objects Appendix”

# “User Interface Appendix”

# “Networking Appendix”

# “Character Rendering and Animation Appendix”

# “Story Appendix”

Okay, that’s it. I wanted to spend more time on this and really make it a great roadmap for putting a game design together. Unfortunately it would take a ton of time and that is something that we don’t have enough of in this business. I think you get the idea anyhow. Also, don’t get the impression that I think a design should provide the information in any particular order, this just happened to be the way it fell out of my head when I sat down. Change this template any way you want and if you feel you have improved on it, send it back to me and I can pass it out as an alternative to anyone that asks me in the future.

Good luck and all that!

Chris Taylor