



# Adil Salamat 100879914

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#### Introduction

For this report, we will be viewing the history of the game Pacman, this includes how the game came to be, the gameplay, and finally, how the game evolved through time. I will also mention notable games in the series that showed how the game Pacman evolved through time and reinvented itself.

### The history of Pacman

Pacman is one of the most popular and oldest arcade games of all time. It was released in 1980 by a company called Namco. The game consists of the user controlling Pacman, a simple circular object, whose objective is to eat all of the "Pac-Dots" while avoiding 4 enemies who hunt you down.

The player starts with 3 lives, their objective is to complete the level by eating all of the dots on screen. In all 4 corners there are larger flashing dots that when consumed, make the ghosts open to attack. If consumed the player is granted points and the ghosts are sent back to the centre of the maze.

The game progression is tracked by level and high score. Although Pacman has no official end, a bug in the original game makes the game unplayable once the player reaches level 256. This is widely regarded as the official end of the game. The highest score possible in the game on the original arcade system is said to be 3,333,360 points.

#### Pacman Games

For this section I want to focus more on the Pacman games that are based or play like the original, but I will mention a few of their other ideas.

Since its initial release Pacman quickly became a household name, to capitalise on this success the decision was made to make more games with the Pacman title. These games had little or nothing to do with the original game. The first game release after Pacman was Ms. Pacman, a reskin of the main character aimed at female audiences. The game also introduced different AI for the ghosts as well as alternating maze designs in-between rounds.

Quickly the games became more disconnected from the original. Professor Pacman was an educational game aimed at children; Pac Land was a 2D side scroller, there were racing games, platforming games and 3D adventure games, most of these games were poorly received. Pacman eventually found his way into the Super Smash Bros roster. A widely popular fighting game full of Nintendo characters.

Pac-Mania returned to the original concept, but this time was in 3D as well as a different camera angle, this time the whole maze was not visible and the camera was focused on the player, this was one of the first major changes to the original game.

After years of little to no innovation, Pacman VS was released in 2003. This is the first Pacman game to include true multiplayer. Here one player controls Pacman while the others control the ghosts. Since its release it has had several remasters with improved multiplayer support, but the original concept was that Pacman was played on the Gameboy while the ghosts were controlled on the TV using a Gamecube (the consoles were linked together using a cable). Now this game can be found on smartphones making multiplayer much simpler.

2007 saw another major change to the Pacman formula with Pacman Championship edition. This version of the game removed the level system and replaced it with a timer, the objective of the game was to last as long as possible while collecting the most amount of points. As time went on the speed of Pacman and the ghosts increased making the game faster paced. The maze was also different, now being split into 2 sections where completing one changes the other.

Pacman battle royal was released in arcades in 2011. This was another spin on multiplayer Pacman where players each controlled a Pacman. After the end of a set number of rounds, the Pacman who won the most rounds (by collecting the most dots) wins the game.

Pacman 256 is a 2.5D smartphone title released in 2015. The game takes inspiration from the original title where the game would bug out and the screen would glitch on the 256<sup>th</sup> level. This game is an endless scroller, the aim is to last as long as possible while surviving a procedural generated maze, avoiding ghosts, and collecting dots. The player loses if they come in contact with a ghost or get consumed by the glitch that chases the player. Eventually the game was ported over to console and introduced multiplayer, the goal was for all players to work together to achieve the highest possible score.

The final game worth mentioning happens to be the most recent. In 2016 Pacman Championship edition 2 was released and the one major change worth mentioning is how the ghost's function. Instead of contact resulting in instant death, the player can knock back a ghost up to 3 times before they get into their angry state. Once in their angry state the ghosts will kill on contact.

#### Conclusion

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By looking through the history of Pacman, I now have a better understanding of what I want my game to be. I've seen how Pacman has evolved through time, how they added and removed features, what components were well received by players, and how multiplayer was handled in certain games. There are a number of directions I can go with my game, as well as a number of playstyles and gimmicks I can include. This way I can make the game my own while still making it enjoyable and similar to the original.

# Bibliography

This video was used as a faster method of finding out which games I should research more in depth as well as giving a visual as to how they played, this helped with understanding the concept of the game more and saving time so I didn't have to play them myself.

Youtube.com. (2019). *YouTube*. [online] Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZ6zW8BYO3E [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

Was used to help find information of Pacman games as well as Wikipedia links to their own respective pages.

Arcade-museum.com. (2019). - *The International Arcade Museum: Search Results*. [online] Available at: https://www.arcade-museum.com/results.php [Accessed 13 Oct. 2019].

This page was taken from my plan, gives me a clear understanding of how the original game functions as well as the history of the game and how it works.

Web Pacman. (2019). *Pacman - Play Free Online Pacman Game and Ms Pacman (Pac Man)*. [online] Available at: https://www.webpacman.com [Accessed 14 Oct. 2019].