**Game Design Document for:**

# ASCII?

**The Non-ASCII ASCII Roguelike**

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Version # 4.10

Monday, March 14, 2022**Table of Contents**

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# Project Management

## Timetable

Here was my schedule for when I would work on the unity project (magenta), although this only shows when not what I’ll be working on.

Timeline

Description automatically generated

A solution to this is use a site such as Trello which keeps track of what you’re tasks are and workspaces can be used by multiple people at once.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated with low confidence

# Version History

## Version 1.00

Version 1.00 includes initial information.

1. Idea for game found.
2. Document is created.
3. Necessary headings are added.

## Version 1.10

Version 1.10 includes the main idea.

1. Idea for game found.
2. Started writing in the “Game Overview”

## Version 2.00

Version 2.00 includes a lot of large sections.

1. Finished the game overview
2. Added text to “Feature Set”
3. Added text to “The Game World”
4. Added text to “The Physical World”
5. Added text to “The World Layout”

## Version 3.00

Version 3.00 includes New! Never before seen sections!

1. Added “Source Control” and images
2. Added “Black Box Testing” overview

## Version 4.00

Version 4.00 includes…

1. Moved everything from Feature Set to “Gameplay Mechanics”
2. Small edits here and there.

## Version 4.10

Version 4.00 includes…

1. Added “Object Appendix”
2. Added my schedules
3. Added very much placeholder title

# Game Overview

## Common Questions

### What is the game?

This game will be a roguelite themed around the ASCII characters, The idea came from the rules required for a game to be a roguelike that they must have an ASCII display, the spin on this is that the game will physically uses the symbols in the gameplay.

## Inspirations

The game takes inspiration for other popular ‘roguelikes’ such as The Binding of Isaac and Hades which both have different ‘stages’ split into small randomly generated rooms and an overarching goal of defeating enemies and getting far as possible before dying and starting over.

### Who is the target audience?

The targeted audience is for anyone who likes to play roguelike-likes and roguelites which are similar to roguelikes but don’t entirely qualify as ones, this could be because of not having turn-based combat, true perma-death or no ASCII graphics.

### Where does the game take place?

The game will take place inside of a magical dungeon where words are given physical form to create paths in the mysterious dungeon.

The dungeon will be randomly generated or ‘shuffled’ every time the player starts a game and will have layered floors with different themes.

### What/who do I control?

The player will control a sole character who is just trying to escape, if the player dies, then they will get sent back to start over retaining none of the collected loot.

### What is the main focus?

The main goal of the game is to escape from the dungeon while collecting items and gear to aid the adventure, when the player dies, they lose everything and are thrown back to the start where all the rooms have changed.

After they escape once, the main goal becomes to beat the high score set by previous runs.

### What is different?

In this roguelite there are missing pieces of the map, so you can use gold gathered in the dungeon to buy map pieces which correlate to their ASCII value, if I can finish this, I can add other purchasable pieces that change other aspects of the game.

A list of ASCII characters and their values:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Character** | **Cost** | **Character** | **Cost** |
| ╣ | 185G | ╩ | 202G |
| ║ | 186G | ╦ | 203G |
| ╗ | 187G | ╠ | 204G |
| ╝ | 188G | ═ | 205G |
| ╚ | 200G | ╬ | 206G |
| ╔ | 201G |  |  |

Furthermore, (aesthetically only) the enemies drop gold in the form of their ASCII value, so for example when an enemy dies, they drop a total of 100 gold which could be split down into a: \* (42G), & (38G), ♠ (6G), and two • (7Gx2) in an explosion of characters.

# Gameplay Mechanics

Here’s a list of the mechanics I will (eventually) add:

* Top-down shooting combat,
* Semi-randomly generated maps,
* Items that boost the player’s abilities,
* An emphasis on ASCII symbols,
* Purchasable paths to fill gaps in the map,
* Semi-randomly generated worlds,
* UI including health, items, and minimap,
* Perma-death.

# Gameplay loop

Player starts the game with nothing, they can defeat enemies and collect loot to make themselves stronger, after they beat the boss of the floor they can proceed to the next randomly generated floor with new harder enemies and new items. This repeats until the player beats a certain number of floors or dies during the run, in which they will be sent back to the beginning with no items.

# The Game World

## Overview

The game is set in dungeons that are everchanging, the player character has fallen down into the nethermost layer of the dungeon and must now escape using a *mysterious* form of magic that uses ASCII symbols as its basis.

## ASCII

As you most likely have realized so far, this game heavily uses ASCII in the gameplay compared to roguelikes which use it just for displaying the game.

The player can use the symbols to bridge across previously uncrossable gaps by purchasing them from the local merchant for their equivalent ASCII value.

## The Physical World

### Overview

The player is placed within a randomly generated map of rooms joined by pathways, the game is top down 2D, so most of the time the player can see an entire room at once on their screen. Once the player has cleared all the rooms on a floor, the above floor is unlocked, and the player moves closer to escaping.

### Key Locations

Nethermost Region – As the same suggest it’s the lowest floor which you start at every run.

The library – the next floor up, player can learn better attacks here using the symbols.

Ground layer – The end goal location to beat the game.

And two other locations I am yet to pick

### Objects

The player uses gold as their currency which can be collected from defeating enemies.

But the more prominent roguelike feature is the collectable items which can have various effects from increased attack, defense, or extremely specific effects such as inflicting poison every 5th attack.

Finally, the player has difference choices of weapon which each have their own pros and cons.

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

# The World Layout

## Overview

Since the game is ‘randomly generated’ there isn’t a permanent map, but what I can show is an example of what a floor layout could look like as well.

A picture containing text, music, clock, piano

Description automatically generated╬ - Paths, █ - Rooms, • - Missing paths.

One thing I’ve realized now, is that the symbols have a lot more height than width, so I’m conflicted between keeping it like this or matching the ratio.

Alternatively, I’ve realized that if you turn it onto its side, it closer resembles the aspect ratio of a computer screen.

## World Layout Detail #1

Each level is separated into several sub-floors which all have the same tile set, so you’ll have to go through 3-5 floors to reach the next level

## World Layout Detail #2

While the floors are stacked in terms of story, the player can’t actually see the upper/previous floors, so a floor won’t exist anymore when the player leaves, and new floors will only be generated when loading.

# Source Control

## Overview

Source control is important for allowing all developers of a team access and edit files over a large geological distance, files can be sorted and have a history of when they were edited.

## Using GitHub

GitHub is a commonly used source control software used primarily for code related projects.

A very basic tutorial to using GitHub:

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

Create a new repository.

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

Add files to the folder.

Graphical user interface, text, application, chat or text message

Description automatically generated

When you go back into GitHub desktop, the “Changes” tab will state the number of changes to documents, you can write about what changed in the dialogue boxes and then “Commit”.

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

After committing, GitHub will show all the files in the history tab.

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

Above you can find the “Publish repository” tab which allows you to publish it onto the GitHub website.

Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generated

The GitHub website will now show the files which can now be accessed by everyone working on the project, the files can be downloaded by selecting the download button in the Code tab.

# Black Box Testing

## Overview

Black box testing tests a function such as a game mechanic without the user knowing what is going to make that happen, so a user will input something and an output is received, if the output doesn’t seem right it may need to be tweaked.

This tests how good the function is at taking in unexpected inputs which the designer may not have thought about.

The opposite of black box testing is white box testing, which is the same concept, but the user/designer knows and can see what happens internally.

# “Objects Appendix”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item:** | **Description:** |
| Balance | Balances all player stats. |
| Bread | Increases all stats. |
| Heart | Increases player health by 10. |
| Large Book | Projectile damage and size up but decreased projectile speed. |
| Poison Blob | Hit enemies are poisoned. |
| Snipe Book | Projectile damage, speed and range up but decreased projectile size. |
| Speed Shoe | Increases player movement. |
| Split Arrow | Player shoots three weaker shots in a line. |
| Thermometer | Increases damage. |
| Triple Arrow | Splits the player's projectile into three weaker shots. |
| Random | A placeholder for spawning items |

# “References/bibliography”

[ASCII code - (theasciicode.com.ar)](https://theasciicode.com.ar/extended-ascii-code/box-drawings-double-line-horizontal-vertical-character-ascii-code-206.html)

[Berlin Interpretation - RogueBasin](http://www.roguebasin.com/index.php?title=Berlin_Interpretation)