Boone Tison

What Kind of Gamer Are You

My primary personality when gaming is very easily the explorer personality. I think exploring the world of a game is one of the best things to do in a video game and the act of exploration makes the other parts of games, such as gameplay and graphics all the better. A game without a deep and interesting world, one that is very surface level, is often a game I have trouble diving into. The best example of a game that strokes my need for exploration is also my favorite game of all time, Skyrim. Just checking my steam account, I have 495 hours on Skyrim, which is second to my favorite strategy game which I will get into later. Though I would hazard a guess that I probably have about 50 more hours in Skyrim that are on a Steam account I used to share with my brother. I don’t think that Skyrim has the deepest open world in history, far from it. There are places in Skyrim that feel incredibly shallow, cities are in my opinion way underpopulated and some of the faction content is fairly shallow. What makes Skyrim incredibly fun to explore for me is the modding capability and community of Skyrim. Modding turns Skyrim from an average open world to an incredible one, and not only that, there will always be something new to do in Skyrim simply because creators are still working on Skyrim and probably will until the next Elder Scrolls game. There are most certainly quests and areas I have never done or explored in Skyrim just because of the vastness of the game. I normally go back and play Skyrim every year or so and will find new content in my playthrough, but also content that I have completely forgotten about that I get to experience again. The second game that I love to explore in is Assassin’s Creed: Valhalla, though this also applies to Odyssey, but I’m just going to talk about Valhalla for the sake of simplicity. I have a very concrete method when playing the most recent Assassin’s Creed games. Whenever I travel to a new region, usually following the story of the game, I first do everything there is to do in the region before doing the story quests. This means doing every side-quests I can find and completing all the “Mysteries” in the region that I can. I also go and collect every “Wealth” and “Artifact” in the region and also open every chest I can find, whether using the map or otherwise. I try to discover every location in the region and eek out every bit of content in the area before moving onto the story quests. I do this often because I normally don’t really care about the story and am only doing it to progress. I guess you could call it being really completionist about the objectives on my map, I find it really satisfying to know that I have done every quest and collected every item in a game. This kind of way that I play games in can be applied to a lot of other games like Ghost Recon or Saints Row. The third game that I really like to explore in is Minecraft. Minecraft is probably the first game that I properly got into as a kid, at least the first on PC. Minecraft is almost entirely an exploration game, at least when I played it the most there weren’t achievements yet, and I didn’t really play much PvP or PvE multiplayer on Minecraft. I got Minecraft on Xbox 360 when it came out on it, though it wasn’t the first time I played it, and I just sunk days into building worlds and exploring with friends. I really like playing Minecraft as a chill game, often I don’t play with any goal in mind. I just like exploring an open-world randomly generated environment. I don’t play Minecraft nearly as much as I did when I was younger, but I will still jump into it occasionally and just dump a couple of hours into a new world.

My secondary personality is probably achiever, mostly because I don’t play multiplayer games so socializer and killer don’t really apply to me. Though I do enjoy achieving in games, I think a lot of that comes from exploring. After playing through everything in Odyssey, I had nearly all the achievements in the game, just by virtue of playing it so much, so I got every other achievement in the game because I knew it would be easy. I guess you can attribute that to me being an achiever. Though, I very rarely 100% games in regards to achievements. The primary games that I like to achieve in are sports games, though I will talk about Madden in particular. I only play Madden for its Franchise mode, which is basically just becoming the equivalent of a real-life GM of a football team and trying to win. Madden is not a great game series, it’s incredibly stagnant and I only buy the newest game when it’s on sale. But I still enjoy playing Franchise. I like to take a really bad team and tear down the existing foundation and build a new one through the draft and free agency. Basically, I like to rebuild bad teams into super-teams. I don’t personally play all the games, because I like to see the team I’ve built succeed in the simulator too. I just enjoy being able to craft stories out of football and have fun using the features available to me to build the best team possible and win as many Super Bowls as I can until I get bored of being too good, then I repeat with a new team. I enjoy making as good of a team as possible even though there isn’t really a comparison with anyone else, just my previous successes. The second game that I like to achieve in is Stardew Valley. I love Stardew Valley, it’s my favorite game of the past couple of years and considering the amount of time I spend on it, it will probably pass Skyrim as my favorite game sometime soon. Stardew Valley has a couple of built-in achievements that are fairly easy, for me most of my fun just comes from the characters and gameplay in Stardew Valley. I just like building a really good and cool farm and making as much money as possible on them. Stardew Valley is a game that I can sink into for a couple of hours at a time and just enjoy. There is no stress for me while playing, it’s not a hard game, I find it incredibly relaxing and calming. All the while that is happening I get to achieve goals that the game and I personally set. The third game that I like to achieve in is Civilization V, which is the game that I have the most hours in and is my favorite strategy game. One part of Civ 5 that I enjoy doing is hunting for the achievements in the game by playing a specific scenario or civilization to get an achievement. This is probably the purest application of the Achiever personality as I am an actually hunting for achievements while playing most of the time. Civ 5 is such an easy game to play for hours upon hours and I love playing it whether for fun or with a purpose in mind.