Tetris

Tetris is a surprising game. On paper, at least, it seems unlikely that something so basic should have done so well beyond the year 1975. Nevertheless, it's been a consistently popular video game for decades. It was invented in Russia, and it was never expected to be as popular as it became. Yet, the reason it is *so* popular is that it meets the key criteria for fun in a game. That is, it has goals, rules, feedback, participation is voluntary, and there are unnecessary obstacles that keep the game challenging.