**Game Design Document**

By: Placeholder Studios

1. Title Page
   1. Game Name – Perhaps also add a subtitle or high concept sentence.
   2. Version Number, author, date
2. Design History
3. Section I - Game Overview
   1. Game Concept
   2. Feature Set
   3. Genre
   4. Target Audience
   5. Project Scope
      1. Number of locations
      2. Number of NPC’s
      3. Number of weapons
4. Section II - Gameplay and Mechanics
   1. Gameplay
      1. Game Progression
      2. Mission/challenge Structure
      3. Objectives – What are the objectives of the game?
   2. Mechanics – What are the rules to the game, both implicit and explicit. This is the model of the universe that the game works under. Think of it as a simulation of a world, how do all the pieces interact? This can be a very large section.
      1. Physics – How does the physical universe work?
      2. Movement 4.2.2.1.General Movement 4.2.2.2.Other Movement
      3. Objects 4.2.3.1.Picking Up Objects 4.2.3.2.Moving Objects
      4. Actions
         1. Switches and Buttons 4.2.4.2.Picking Up, Carrying and Dropping 4.2.4.3.Talking

4.2.4.4.Reading

* + 1. Combat – If there is combat or even conflict, how is this specifically modeled?
    2. Economy – What is the economy of the game? How does it work?
  1. Screen Flow
     1. Screen Flow Chart – A graphical description of how each screen is related to every other
     2. Screen Descriptions – What is the purpose of each screen? 4.3.2.1.Main Menu Screen

4.3.2.2.Options Screen 4.3.2.3.Etc.

* 1. Game Options – What are the options and how do they affect game play and mechanics?
  2. Replaying and Saving
  3. Cheats and Easter Eggs

1. Section III – Story, Setting and Character
   1. Story and Narrative - Specific details like scripts and cut scenes may not be in this document but be in the Story Bible.
      1. Back story
      2. Plot Elements
      3. Game Progression
      4. License Considerations
      5. Cut Scenes 5.1.5.1.Cut scene #1
         * 1. Actors
           2. Description
           3. Storyboard
           4. Script 5.1.5.2.Cut scene #2 5.1.5.3.etc.
   2. Game World
      1. General look and feel of world
      2. Area #1 5.2.2.1.General Description

5.2.2.2.Physical Characteristics 5.2.2.3.Levels that use area 5.2.2.4.Connections to other areas

* + 1. Area #2 5.2.3.1.etc.
  1. Characters
     1. Character #1 5.3.1.1.Back story 5.3.1.2.Personality 5.3.1.3.Look
        + 1. Physical characteristics
          2. Animations 5.3.1.4.Special Abilities 5.3.1.5.Relevance to game story 5.3.1.6.Relationship to other characters 5.3.1.7.Statistics
     2. Character #2
     3. etc.

1. Section V - Interface
   1. Visual System
      1. HUD - What controls
      2. Menus
      3. Rendering System
      4. Camera
      5. Lighting Models
   2. Control System – How does the game player control the game? What are the specific commands?
   3. Audio
   4. Music
   5. Sound Effects
   6. Help System
2. Section VI - Artificial Intelligence
   1. Opponent AI – The active opponent that plays against the game player and therefore requires strategic decision making (example, Civilization or Chess, how is it to be designed?
   2. Enemy AI – Villains and Monsters
   3. Non-combat Characters
   4. Friendly Characters
   5. Support AI
      1. Player and Collision Detection
      2. Pathfinding
3. Section VII – Technical – This may be abbreviated with most in the Technical Bible.
   1. Target Hardware
   2. Development hardware and software
   3. Development procedures and standards
   4. Game Engine
   5. Network
   6. Scripting Language
   7. etc.
4. Section VIII – Game Art - This may be abbreviated with most of the content in an Art Bible.
   1. Concept Art
   2. Style Guides
   3. Characters
   4. Environments
   5. Equipment
   6. Cut scenes
   7. Miscellaneous
5. Section IX - Secondary Software
   1. Editor
   2. Installer
   3. Update software
6. Section X - Management
   1. Detailed Schedule
   2. Budget
   3. Risk Analysis
   4. Localization Plan
   5. Test Plan
7. Appendices
   1. Asset List
      1. Art
         1. Model and Texture List
         2. Animation List
         3. Effects List
         4. Interface Art List
         5. Cut scene List
      2. Sound
         1. Environmental Sounds
         2. Weapon Sounds
         3. Interface Sounds
      3. Music
         1. Ambient
         2. “Action”
         3. Victory
         4. Defeat
      4. Voice
         1. Actor #1 lines
         2. Actor #2 lines
         3. Etc.