

Build a "story co-pilot" for the Laelith Adventure Editor

Contacts: Philippe Martinou, Project Manager
Yann Corno, AI expert

Summary

The Laelith (see p.3) **Adventure Editor** is an authoring tool for writing solo, multiple-choice Adventures that are strongly linked to the extensive Laelith RPG background. To help authors write richer, more colorful and exciting Adventures, an “AI Copilot” is to be added to suggest story chunks. Based on a text generative AI framework, this Copilot can be thought of as a “domain generative AI” capable of producing texts that both respect the Laelith background and the rest of the Story (consistency requirement) while still retaining a healthy dose of creativity.

Description

The success of recent AI-powered conversational engines such as ChatGPT demonstrated their usefulness and potential for a large range of applications. However, a generic tool is not immediately usable for specific use cases. For helping authors to write Adventures for Laelith, the generated contents must be consistent with all the Laelith Background, and with the other elements of the Adventure being written. There is a need to “constrain” the AI to the Laelith Adventure Domain.

Furthermore, such a tool is only really useful if it is tightly integrated with the Adventure Editor used by authors - ergonomy matters, and the best tool in the world is only useful when it is available when and where the authors need it. Thus, the project includes, as a major deliverable, the integration of a front-end for this Copilot into the real authoring tool.



Tasks, Objectives and Deliverables

This project has two major Deliverables:

- A domain-specific text generative AI engine capable of producing text content within the Laelith Adventure domain.
- A front-end application module written in Typescript and using the Svelte framework to provide a good user experience leveraging the AI capabilities.

Learnings

This is, indeed, a type of problem that is commonly found in many AI use cases: wanting to create content that both respects the domain of usage and can still be creative. It is expected that the skills developed in the course of this project can be applied to many industry use cases.

The second deliverable, integrating this “generator” in the Laelith Adventure Authoring tool presents the commonly-found challenge to integrate new features into an existing codebase. The technologies used (Fully typescript front-end application, Svelte framework) being commonplace and actual, this experience is a valuable asset in the student’s skillset.

Challenges

For the “Domain-specific AI” part, the challenge is multifaceted. The work takes place at the edge of a technical domain that is still unstable and evolves at blazing speed, requiring a high level of adaptability. The project itself first requires the acquaintance with the workings of a “standard” GPT-based conversational engine. Then, determining the different possible ways to enrich and constrain the text production to the Laelith Adventure domain. Finally, their implementation and the evaluation of which are the ones producing the best results.

For the Front-End part, the challenge is to design and build the most usable User Interface, and to do this in the context of an existing codebase - not as easy as a greenfield implementation, but a very common situation in most real engineering projects.



About Laelith

Laelith: 30 Years of Collective Work

Laelith is an intellectual property ("IP") of a medieval fantasy city that has been continuously developed in France since 1985. This masterpiece is the result of the hard work of 30+ authors, writers, illustrators, cartographers and game designers over the span of 35+ years. It is an awesome example of the so-called "French Touch" in the world of Role-Playing games.

Laelith is the most coherent and one of the most complete and longest-running City ever created for RPGs. Its most recent edition covers the City like never before, detailing its political, social, religious, cultural and economic aspects, with hundreds of places, characters, situations, stories, scenarios, etc. The map of the city itself describes 20,000+ individual buildings with an accuracy down to 1cm!



The Laelith Foundation

The **Laelith Foundation** is a US-based non-profit foundation that was founded in 2022 by former founders of **Days of Wonder**, a board-game company known for games such as **Ticket to Ride** or **Small World**. The Laelith Foundation has acquired and is now the owner of all rights to Laelith, with leading French RPG publisher Black Book Editions retaining a sub-license for pen-and-paper supplements.

The Foundation was started with the following objectives:

- Ensure that the Laelith IP will live on for decades to come. By being inside a non-profit foundation, the Laelith IP is now protected from future corporate takeovers, so as to never suffer from the ill-fated acquisitions that have bedeviled many famous IPs in games and many other industries.
- Make the English-speaking world discover the Laelith IP. Laelith's fame has never spread beyond the French-speaking world due to a lack of translation in English... until now.
- Develop Laelith in the Metaverse - a fancy way of saying we are working on turning Laelith into a full-blown digital platform for RPG lovers worldwide, complete with interactive maps, online chat rooms, virtual tabletop ("VTT") tools, digital library, wiki, virtual property, guilds, AI, etc. Our plan is ambitious and our list long, with several pieces already working!
- Rely on modern self-organizing groups. We want the Laelith world to survive us well beyond our own lifetime. We believe that there are digital tools emerging that can allow the community to take collective ownership of the IP and keep on developing it. This is at the core of the Foundation's vision: "doers will decide".



The Laelith Project

The Laelith project is a unique opportunity to:

- Bring together a thought-provoking community of story-tellers and makers who share a common love of RPGs
- Build Laelith into a long-lasting corner of the metaverse that is truly open for the common good of all
- Give tabletop RPG players a shot at getting their own fair share of the digital economy
- And in a world where technology is increasingly becoming indistinguishable from magic, provide us all with a wonderful playground where to experiment and learn

