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Project Specification

Intro

The Game Organizer is intended to be an easy and convenient way for people to organize their game collections. Based on the Lego database site Brickset, the Game Organizer would allow users to browse through a database containing several console games from across several years, and they would be able to tag which games they own and which ones they want. The games stored in the database would contain several parameters users can filter their search by, to make finding games much easier. Along with potential forum features, or just simply linking to dedicated discord servers, the site would allow players to organize their collections and connect with others with similar interests.

Software Purpose

The primary purpose of the Game Organizer is to allow users to organize their game collections and look for potential new games. It would give an idea of how large one’s collection is, and how widespread some games really are. It would also help people find and learn about new games, or what games they’re missing from their collection. They could also connect with other people who like similar games based on their collections, and in turn they could give and receive recommendations.

Software Requirements

The software will include a website and a database. The database will include data on various games, such as release date, platform, genre, generation, age rating, and maybe even possible controller options, among others. The site will not include PC games, as the total number of retail PC games is simply too vast, and online distribution platforms like Steam already help keep track of them. Modifying the database (inserting/deleting/updating entries) will be handled by site admins and database administrators, but normal registered users can suggest new entries if they find a game that isn’t included. The only interaction normal registered users will have with the database is tagging which games they own and/or want. Users can search for games and filter their search by all of the above parameters (and potentially more) along with their owned and wanted games. The site will have a front page that will provide news on things like new additions. The site may have basic forum features, or it may simply link to a discord server. The site may also include tables for consoles themselves and peripherals, that can be searched and sorted using their own parameters, and games may include tags that note if they work with certain peripherals.

Relevant Literature/Similar Software

The main relevant literature for assisting in developing this is text on web design and incorporating databases. The actual website and database functions are nothing unique, so no specialized instruction is required. The main inspiration for this site is Brickset, an online database for Lego sets with much of the same functionality as mentioned above, namely all of the various parameters sets have attached to them and users being able to filter by those parameters when searching, and users being able to tag sets they own and want.

Project Plan

The first main step of the project is to set up the database, which shouldn’t take too long. This would include everything related to database creation (deciding the fields, setting up relations, etc.). After the database is ready, development on the website part will commence. This will be the hard part, as it needs to both connect to the database and allow users to search it, while also including features like user registration and permissions, and only allowing admins to modify the database. The tagging of wanted/owned games might be the hardest part, as it would require letting normal users interact with the database in a limited way. Once the functionality is complete, then the design of the site itself will begin, with a focus on making the site usable while also being aesthetically pleasing.

Conclusion

The Game Organizer would fill a niche that needs to be filled: an easy to use way to organize games in one’s collection and potentially look for new games. This ease of use would be facilitated by attaching several parameters to games stored in the database, so that users can filter their searches in however ways they need, and to allow users to easily tag which games they own and want. Combine this with some basic forum functionality (or just links to discord servers), and users would be able to converse and connect to others with similar collections, and in turn help foster and grow gaming communities.