

Game Design Document

Fantasy & Ash

[Date]

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Woad Stoat Studio

**Change Log**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date of Change** | **Change Description** | **Developer** | **Version** |
| 22/02/2020 | Completed first full version of GDD | Calum, Arran | Version 1.0 |
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# Overview

## Theme/Setting/Genre

[Fantasy & Ash] is a 2D high fantasy RPG.

## Elevator Pitch

A 2D pixel art fantasy JRPG style game but the player plays as a high-level adventurer who has been reborn after falling to an unknown foe in a routine quest and must build up their power and party to piece together what happened.

## Project Description (Brief)

This project is to create a 2D pixel-art RPG game based on the early JRPG games of the 1980’s, within the given timeframe.

## Project Description (Detailed)

This project has been proposed in response to the coursework given by Dr Thomas Methven as part of the Games Engineering module during the second trimester in year 3 of the Games Development course at Napier University. The goal of this project is to create a 2D game using the SFML framework while incorporating game design elements and techniques covered during the Games Engineering module and through self-study.

We will create a 2D RPG game based on the early JRPG games, such as Final Fantasy. We will include features such as turn-based combat and a character levelling system.

## Minimum Viable Product (MVP)

An JRPG style game with a overworld map that you can traverse and enter into combat with enemies. Successful combat should reward experience whereas unsuccessful combat should result in a game over. Enemies should be of varying difficulties and the game should include a final boss.

## Targeted Platforms

* PC (Windows)  
  Due to the time limitations and the current framework, we will only be targeting the Windows PC platform, however this will allow us to target a good-sized audience.

## Target Audience

For our target audience we will define an audience profile[[1]](#footnote-1). Firstly, looking at the platform we will be developing for, PC gaming has continued to increase consistently over the previous 5+ years. Looking at the age of our profile, the average age for both male and female gamers is 36/37, this is a good target age for us as those most familiar with the titles that this products takes inspiration from and would allow us to possibly tap into the nostalgia affect. However, there will be nothing in this product to dissuade gamers of any age.

## Monetization Model

The game will be uploaded to **itch.io** and therefore will be free although will allow those that download the game, the option to pay anything they want.

## Timescale

The time scale for development is 7 weeks, between the 24th of February and 6th April.

## Licenses / Hardware

* SFML  
  We will be using the SFML[[2]](#footnote-2) (Simple and Fast Multimedia Library) as it gives us a good framework to start from.
* Visual Studio  
  Visual Studio 2019 will be used to write the code.
* C++  
  C++ will be the language of choice as it is the one both developers are familiar with and is the language used by SFML.

## Other costs

Currently there are no extra costs to this production, but it may be subject to change.

## Influences

* Early JRPGs (Final Fantasy/Dragon Quest)
  + Video Game
  + The early JRPG game have influenced this title through its story telling, gameplay mechanics and graphical style. Specific influences may be prevalent in the games combat mechanics and overall style.
* Fantasy Novels (LOTR/Redwall/Grimgar)
  + Literature
  + Fantasy novels will influence this title through their world building and storytelling styles. Fantasy novels can build large believable worlds, and while that will not be in the scope of this project, it is something we will be taking influence from.
* Tabletop RPGs (D&D)
  + Tabletop games will influence this title through the different gameplay styles the player can use.

## Team Members

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Member | Role | Contact Information |
| Calum Mathison | Programmer/Designer | Email: [woadstoatstudios@gmail.com](mailto:woadstoatstudios@gmail.com)  Twitter: @WoadStoat |
| Arran Smedley | Programmer/Designer | Email: ArranSmedleyWork@gmail.com  Twitter: @Azzamond |

# Story

## Story (Brief)

Set in the land of Kyntera, Andrel, a high-level member of a local adventurer’s guild is killed on a routine quest under suspicious circumstances. He awakens to find that they have been reborn as a level 1 adventurer. He must work his way back to his previous position by completing quests and hunting monsters, all while trying to uncover what happened.

## Characters

### Party Characters

ID: PC01  
Name: Andrel   
Narrative Role: Main Character  
Combat Class: Thief/Rogue  
Physical Description:



ID: PC02  
Name: Charity  
Narrative Role: Party Character  
Combat Class: Priest/Cleric  
Physical Description:



ID: PC03  
Name: Helmaer  
Narrative Role: Party Character  
Combat Class: Warrior/Knight  
Physical Description:



ID: PC04  
Name: Horo  
Narrative Role: Party Character  
Combat Class: Mage  
Physical Description:

### Enemies

ID: E01  
Name: Slime  
Narrative Role: Basic Enemy  
Combat Class: N/A  
Physical Description: Sentient viscous blob. Comes in a variety of different colours, dependant on their surroundings. Body is extremely acidic.

ID: E02  
Name: Goblin  
Narrative Role: Enemy  
Combat Class: N/A  
Physical Description: Short green skinned creatures with an ugly demeanour. As scavengers they use anything they can find as armour or weaponry.

ID: E03  
Name: Skeleton  
Narrative Role: Advanced Enemy  
Combat Class: N/A  
Physical Description: Skeletal remains brought to life by magic. Hard to kill due to the nature of their life. Can occur at different stages of decay, giving them varying styles of looks. Uses weapons and armour pried from other dead lifeforms

ID: E04  
Name: Adventurer  
Narrative Role: Advanced Enemy  
Combat Class: Can vary between Warrior/Thief/Mage.  
Physical Description: A player like yourself trying to do anything necessary to survive, include killing the main character

### NPC

ID: NPC01  
Name: Shopkeeper  
Narrative Role: Sells the player items  
Combat Class: None

ID: NPC02  
Name: Guild Receptionist  
Narrative Role: Gives the player quests  
Combat Class: None

## Narrative

The games main narrative will be to collect experience in order to attain enough to be able to kill larger enemies and the main reason of slaying these enemies is to receive coin in which the player will be able to use to attain information on how he has ended up within the position that he got himself into.

# Gameplay

## Core Loop

## Core Gameplay Mechanics (Brief)

* Turn-based combat
* Levelling system
* Party System

## Core Gameplay Mechanics (Detailed)

### Turn-based Combat

We will implement a turn-based combat system where each combatant will go in order of their dexterity rating. This can allow us to mimic a faster character’s ability to react faster, as well as adding some more strategy to the game.   
 Combat will be divided into two forms, physical and magic. Physical mimics the characters/enemies attacking with weapons. Weapon damage will be affected by a character’s strength stat. Magic will allow characters to use spells. These spells should be selected from a menu within the combat screen. The player should also have the option to flee or escape from combat to allow them to escape situations that they may feel are too dangerous for their current power.  
 Characters will have four attributes that determine how the perform within combat.

* Strength: This will affect physical attack damage
* Dexterity: This will affect the turn order and any speed based checks.
* Constitution: This will affect the maximum amount of health a character has and how much damage they avoid.
* Intellect: This will affect the power of any magical abilities.

### Levelling System

After battling or completing quests, the players party will gain experience (exp). After gaining enough experience, each character will increase in level. Characters will only gain experience if they are alive or part of the party at the time of receiving that experience. Enemies should not scale to the party’s level but should rather be levelled on their location. This will allow us to create the feeling of surprise when running into an enemy who is too powerful.

### Party System

The narrative will progress from the perspective of the main character however the player will control a party of four members throughout the game. The player will recruit these members near the beginning of the game. If all party members health reaches zero in a single battle the player will receive a game over.

## Gameplay (Features)

### Gold in Take

While killing enemies the player will receive an income of gold, this gold will be used to upgrade characters and buy items.

### Small Open World Map (Tile map)

The map is going to be a small open world tile map that will consist of multiple terrains (Grass, Mud, Lakes, Snow), that the player can venture around finding small, medium and large enemies to fight, reason it being a small open world map is because if a large one was to be implemented, not enough content would be available In game to apply an immersive experience for the player making the game very boring and a lot of running around with nothing happening.

### Collisions

The collision will be minimal within this game as the combat system is turn based and wont really require collision. The main collision that will be within this game will consist of:

* Collision against water, lakes, boundaries where players aren’t allowed to be in.
* Collision detection when a player walks into a NPC.

### NPC(Enemy) Interaction

Enemy interaction will be very much player orientated as the player will be able to choose if they want to fight the enemy or leave it be (The enemy won’t be chasing the player). The enemy will be roaming around the map around a certain area of the map (So if the enemy is based in the snow it stays within that biome).

### NPC(Enemy) Artificial Intelligence

The artificial intelligence within the combat system will be all about decision making, deciding what to do next if the player is making reckless or rash decisions the AI should take advantage of that for example if the player is low on health always attack or if the enemy Is low on health the AI will heal.

### NPC(Enemy) Types

There will be three enemy difficulties and multiple types of enemy. The three types will consist of:

* Easy
* Medium
* Hard

The harder the enemy the bigger the sprite will be.

### Character Movement

The character will be able to move up, down, left, right and will not be able to move horizontally.

Sprite Animation

Characters will have simple sprite sheet animations, such as walking or attacking

Random Encounters

While traversing the overworld, the player will be at a constant risk of running into unseen enemies. Enemies should not appear more than every 5 steps the player takes, this will avoid ‘Zubat’ effect

# Technical Document

## Control Scheme

Player Controller (Left, Right, Up, Down)  
The player controller will allow the player to venture the open world map by movement such as up, down, left and right ensuring that the player can move wherever they want by using the WASD keys on the keyboard.

## User Interface

The user interface on first look will consist of a background and two Buttons. One in which is to play the game and another to quit. The style of this UI will stick to the routes of the 1980’s JRPG retro 8bit look, with vibrant colours and 8-bit pixelated text and images. To select whether to play the game or quit the game the player can use the UP arrow and Down arrow to select in which the button will be highlighted that the player is currently about to select.

# Assets/Media List

## 2D

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ID | Name | Description | Format |
| PC01 | Andrel | Main Character: Thief/Rogue | .PNG |
| PC02 | Charity | Party Character: Priest/Cleric | .PNG |
| PC03 | Helmaer | Party Character:  Warrior/Knight | .PNG |
| PC04 | Horo | Party Character:  Mage | .PNG |
| E01 | Slime | Sentient viscous blob. Comes in a variety of different colours, dependant on their surroundings. Body is extremely acidic. | .PNG |
| E02 | Goblin | Short green skinned creatures with an ugly demeanour. As scavengers they use anything they can find as armour or weaponry. | .PNG |
| E03 | Skeleton | Skeletal remains brought to life by magic. Hard to kill due to the nature of their life. Can occur at different stages of decay, giving them varying styles of looks. Uses weapons and armour pried from other dead lifeforms | .PNG |
| E04 | Adventurer | A player like yourself trying to do anything necessary to survive, include killing the main character | .PNG |
| TILE01 | Grass | A basic grass tile for the map. | .PNG |
| TILE02 | Mud | A basic Mud tile for the map. | .PNG |
| TILE03 | Rock | A basic rock tile for the map. | .PNG |
| TILE04 | Snow | A basic snow tile for the map. | .PNG |
| TILE05 | Water | A basic water tile for the map, in which the player can collide with. | .PNG |
| TILE06 | Wall | Environmental wall tile in which player can collide with. |  |
| ENV01 | Tree | A tree sprite in which the player will collide with. | .PNG |
| ENV02 | Bush | A bush sprite in which the player will collide with. | .PNG |
| ENV03 | Rock | A rock sprite in which the player will collide with. | .PNG |
| ENV04 | House | A house sprite in which the player will collide with. | .PNG |
| UI01 | Text | Text within the user interface in which the player can interact with | .TFF |
| UI02 | Image | A background image for the user interface. | .PNG |
| NPC01 | Shopkeeper | Provides the player with information and equipment. | .PNG |
| NPC02 | Guild Receptionist | Provides the player with quests. | .PNG |

## Sound

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ID | Name | Description | Format |
| SD01 | UI Music | Music in which the UI will have. | .WAV |
| SD02 | Main game music | Music in which will play in the background of the main game scene. | .WAV |
| SD03 | Combat music | Music in which will start as a combat scene takes place. | .WAV |
| SE01 | UI Button press sound effects | A sound effect will play on button press. | .WAV |
| SE02 | Combat sound effects | Sound effects will be played within combat if the player is a sword-based player it will sound like a sword. If a magic user will sound like spells being cast. | .WAV |
| SE03 | Enemy sound effects | When battling an enemy will create grunts of whatever class they are. | .WAV |

## Code

Not sure what is meant by this – Arran.

# Schedule

1. For more statistics see here: <https://www.wepc.com/news/video-game-statistics/#gamers-demographic> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Further information available at: <https://www.sfml-dev.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)