

Project Proposal

1. Team Info

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Ryan Dobkin: Gameplay Systems Dev / Shaders

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Github Repo for Living Document: <https://github.com/abobich675/SoftwareEngineering2>

Github Repo for Unity Project: <https://github.com/abobich675/Ribbit-Royale>

Trello link: <https://trello.com/b/ebDvr63Y/software-engineering-2>

Thursday 2:45-3:00 TA Meeting BEXELL 322

Communication:

We've set up a text group chat and discord server for general, quick communication.

Additionally, we've set up a Trello board to track which tasks still need to be completed, which tasks each person is currently working on, and which tasks each person has already completed. We'll also use email as necessary.

Rules:

- Texts are expected to be seen and responded to (if necessary) within a 24 hour period
- If a task appears more difficult than you initially thought and you find yourself in over your head, you're expected to reach out for assistance as early as possible.
- Treat others how you would like to be treated, focus on constructive criticism rather than just being mean.
- Keep your mind open on ideas. No one concept is concrete and everyone's opinions should be taken into account.

2. Product Description

Title: Ribbit Royale

Abstract: Ribbit Royale is an exciting and whimsical LAN party game designed to bring players together through fun, competitive, and engaging multiplayer minigames. Featuring a playful art style and a variety of unique, frog-themed interactions, the game invites players to experience amusing challenges that leverage the distinct abilities of frogs—such as swinging with their tongues, licking to interact with the environment, and even eating other players or flies. The objective is to provide a distinctive experience that blends competitive gameplay with quirky mechanics, making each mini-game feel fresh and enjoyable. Players can compete in up to four-player multiplayer mode, with a series of mini-games designed to test their skills and cooperation. Ribbit Royale offers at least three unique games with visually differentiated elements that make each challenge memorable and fun. Through the creation of this game, we aim to push the boundaries of the typical party game genre by incorporating fun mechanics that highlight the playful essence of frogs, making it not only an entertaining experience for players but also an intriguing marketable product. As a team of newcomers to game development, this project also provides a unique opportunity to grow our skills in game design, networking, and the Unity engine, while contributing to a project that could offer both personal and professional rewards.

Goal: Create a functional multiplayer party game that supports up to 4 players. Create at least 3 functioning party games with key visual aspects that differentiate each game from the next.

Current Practice: Most multiplayer party games, such as *Mario Party*, *Gang Beasts*, and *Fall Guys*, utilize engines like Unity and Unreal Engine for game development. These games focus on fast-paced, competitive, or cooperative minigames, often relying on traditional movement mechanics like running, jumping, and grabbing. Many of these titles emphasize accessibility and simple controls to appeal to a broad audience. However, many of these games cost upwards of \$30 dollars and games like *Mario Party* even go the extra mile by only being playable on the Nintendo Switch, which costs another \$200-300.

Novelty: Unlike typical party games, Ribbit Royale intends to break the norm by releasing entirely free to play, making it much more accessible than the games mentioned above. Additionally, Ribbit Royale differentiates itself through its

frog-based movement and interaction mechanics. Instead of basic jumping or grabbing, players can:

- **Swing using their tongues** to traverse obstacles dynamically.
- **Lick to interact with objects and complete minigame tasks** in unconventional ways.
- **Hop like a frog** to race to the finish line
- **Ribbit**

These mechanics add playful chaos and strategic depth to the gameplay, making Ribbit Royale stand out from other party games that rely on traditional movement and interactions. The combination of unique physics-driven mechanics and engaging multiplayer competition sets our game apart in the party game genre.

Effects: Create a video game that puts a fun and unique twist on an existing popular genre, giving us the opportunity to create a game that is not only fun and entertaining to us, but potentially has market possibilities. Developing this game would also give all of us experience in a field we haven't worked in in-depth before.

Technical Approach: The development of Ribbit Royale will be done using Unity, a powerful game engine that will provide us with an extensive range of tools for game development, multiplayer networking and physics simulations. Unity's versatility allows us to create dynamic, interactive environments, and with its robust support for both LAN and online multiplayer, it is an ideal platform for our project. To streamline our workflow and ensure efficient collaboration, we will leverage Unity's cloud-based collaboration system, which allows for version control and seamless data sharing among the team. This will enable multiple developers to work on different aspects of the project concurrently without overwriting each other's progress.

Risks: One of the risks of our project is that multiple of our team members have never used the Unity software before, and have not worked on game development before. Because of this, we anticipate a learning curve that will slow down our project design. To mitigate this we will divide the work based on each person's strengths and weaknesses. Additionally, we'll prioritize communication with one another, helping if anyone falls behind and ensuring that each member learns the skills that they need to contribute.

3. Features

Main

Pre-game Lobby

LAN Multiplayer

3+ minigames

- Count the animal
- Rope swinging with tongues
- Parkour minigame, based on escape the dragon (Snake Escape)
- Falling tile game
- Frogger minigame, players can have some form of interaction with one another

Score Tracker/Leaderboard that will reward 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Stretches

Frog Character Customizer

Online Multiplayer

4. Use Cases (Functional Requirements)

Use Case 1- Luke

Actors	User wants to play against their friends
Triggers	User clicks 'create lobby' button in the main menu
Preconditions	User has launched the game and has pressed play game.
Postconditions (success scenario)	User is in a pre-lobby waiting for others to join with a lobby code on screen. User gives a lobby code to friends, once there are 4 players, a countdown begins before starting the party games.

List of steps (success scenario)	The user will launch the game. The user will then press play. The user will press create lobby. The user will be able to show/tell the lobby code to their friends so that they are able to play.
Extensions/variations of the success scenario	The user can manually start the game in the lobby with less than the recommended amount of players. All 4 players need to ready up to begin playing.
Exceptions: failure conditions and scenarios	If the game is not started and there is less than 4 players when the timer is finished, then the lobby is destroyed.

Use Case 2- Ryan

Actors	User wants to check their score
Triggers	User presses the scoreboard trigger button, e.g. 'Tab'
Preconditions	The player is currently in a game and does not already have the scoreboard pulled up.
Postconditions (success scenario)	User successfully opens the scoreboard overlay, views their score, then closes the overlay.
List of steps (success scenario)	The user launches the game. The user then joins a game or creates a new game. Once the players start scoring, the user checks the scoreboard to see their score, and their rank on the scoreboard.
Extensions/variations of the success scenario	The player views the scoreboard as players score, in which case the ranks will animate a change in position. The player views the leaderboard before the game begins, in which case the scores will be 0. The player also wants to view rank or their team color, in which case that will also appear when they open the

	scoreboard.
Exceptions: failure conditions and scenarios	If the game is not started, the scoreboard will not be available and the user will fail to see their score. If the user does not have the scoreboard button bound, they will have to wait until the end of the round to see their score, wherein it will automatically appear. If the player is unsure of their team color, they may be unable to identify which score is theirs.

Use Case 3- Aidan

Actors	User controls their frog character to swing their tongue to reach a target platform
Triggers	Player is prompted to use their tongue to swing like a vine
Preconditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The player is in the tongue-swinging minigame • Swingable objects are present and within range of the player's tongue • The player has control of the frog character
Postconditions (success scenario)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The player successfully swings • The game updates the player's progress
List of steps (success scenario)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Player presses an action button that will extend the frog's tongue 2. The tongue latches onto a nearby swingable object 3. The frog swings back and forth 4. The player releases their tongue at the right moment and goes flying
Extensions/variations of the success scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whoever gets to the target platform first wins the minigame
Exceptions: failure conditions and scenarios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The player releases the tongue too early or too late resulting in a failure to launch

	<p>themselves far</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another player disrupts another player's swing by colliding or ribbitting
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Use Case 4- Baron

Actors	Users control their frog character to jump across gaps or obstacles to escape a snake.
Triggers	The game begins when the players enter the gameplay area, initiating the snake chase.
Preconditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level environment with gaps, obstacles, and the pursuing snake is generated. • The game input is functioning and responsive.
Postconditions (success scenario)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The frog successfully escapes the snake by reaching a safe zone or surviving for a set duration. • The game rewards the player with points, a higher score, or not losing a life.
List of steps (success scenario)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The snake begins chasing the frog characters as the level starts. 2. The player uses controls to make the frog jump over gaps or obstacles. 3. The environment dynamically changes as the frog progresses. 4. The player times jumps correctly to avoid falling or being caught. 5. The player successfully reaches the safe zone or survives for the required time, ending the chase sequence.
Extensions/variations of the success scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The player collects bonus items, such as flies or power-ups, while evading the snake. • The frog encounters different types of obstacles, such as logs, moving platforms, or slippery surfaces.

Exceptions: failure conditions and scenarios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The player misses a jump, and the frog falls, resulting in game over. • Snake catches the frog: The player delays movement or jumps too late, allowing the snake to catch the frog.
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Use Case 5- Chase

Actors	User inputs the number of animals they have counted.
Triggers	The counting animal mini-game finishes, and a screen pops up prompting for an answer. The correct answer is stored to be compared to.
Preconditions	In the counting animal mini-game
Postconditions (success scenario)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User inputs the correct amount of animals. • User player's progress gets updated.
List of steps (success scenario)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Animal counting game ends 2. Prompts users for answer 3. User enters answers 4. Player Closest to the answer wins 5. Winner gets +1 trophy 6. Return to main board
Extensions/variations of the success scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are multiple winners (i.e the answer is 7 and 3 people guess 6.) They all get a trophy.
Exceptions: failure conditions and scenarios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User gets it wrong, they get no points. • All users get it wrong, no one gets points.

Use Case 6- Adam

Actors	User controls their frog character, making them run/jump from rock to rock to avoid falling into the water
Triggers	Player is standing on a stationary rock
Preconditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The player is in the Sinking Rocks minigame• Player is standing on a rock• The player has control of the frog character
Postconditions (success scenario)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The rock sinks and subsequently disappears• The player's frog is no longer on the rock
List of steps (success scenario)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Player moves their frog onto the rock2. The rock starts to shake3. After a delay, the rock starts to sink4. The player moves the frog to a neighboring rock.5. The first rock completely sinks and disappears6. The frog is now standing on a new rock. Repeat from 2
Extensions/variations of the success scenario	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Players can make their frog jump across a small gap to get from one rock to another• All other players get eliminated and the rock stops shaking/sinking. The player wins and the everyone moves on to the next game
Exceptions: failure conditions and scenarios	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the player fails to move their frog onto another rock, or there are no adjacent rocks to jump to, the frog will sink with the rock and swim away, losing the minigame• The player walks off the edge, sinks, loses, and swims away.

5. Functional Requirements

1. The game must allow users to create game lobbies, when pressing the create game button, enabling them to host matches within a LAN session
2. The game must allow users to join existing game lobbies, when pressing the join game button
3. When all players hit the ready button, they will be loaded into the pre-lobby scene
4. After the lobby, the players should load into the game
5. The player's scores in the game should be stored throughout games until the end of the session

6. Non-functional Requirements

1. The game must handle up to four players in a LAN setup with minimal latency.
2. The menu screen and user interface should be intuitive, with clear navigation and controls for players of all skill levels.
3. The game must prevent unauthorized access to the LAN session, ensuring only invited players can join, or require a password to enter the LAN session.

7. External Requirements

- The game should provide fallback mechanisms for errors, for example, providing a reconnect option if a player has disconnected.
- Provide a downloadable installer with clear instructions
- Include detailed build instructions in the Github repository to allow external developers to compile and run the game.

8. Team process description

i. Risk Assessment

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Evidence	Mitigation
Lack of Unity	High	High	A majority of	Unity tutorials,

Experience			the team hasn't worked with Unity before this class.	team training and helping each other out.
Networking Issues	Medium	High	If our game runs on high latency.	Early prototyping (which we've done), use of already established Unity networking tools and code.
Poor time management	Medium	High	We are all busy Computer Science students with 3 other CS classes, meaning a lot of work and we have to balance our time well between classes.	Weekly check-ins with team and TA, Trello for task management and tracking, making sure everyone is on track.
Gameplay balance problems	High	Medium	Game balancing and tweaking values to make the gameplay perfect.	Iterative playtesting, external feedback.
Scope creep	Low	High	We had decided on three minigames, but if our time management takes the best of us, then our scope may need to be	Focus on core minigames first, then after add more features.

			lowered.	
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ii. Project Schedule

Date	Measurable	Effort
Jan 24	Setup Environment and File Sharing.	1 week
Jan 28	Implement basic controls including frog movements: left, right, up, down and jump.	0.5 weeks
Jan 31	Make the pre lobby map/area.	0.5 weeks
Feb 4	Create minigame 1 Prototype.	1 week
Feb 10	Create minigame 2 Prototype.	1 week
Feb 16	Create minigame 3 Prototype.	1 week
Feb 20	Prototype Playtesting with External Volunteers (Requires minigames 1-3 to have a working prototype)	0.5 weeks
Feb 21	Implement LAN Multiplayer (requires at least 1 game to have a working prototype)	1 week
Feb 24	(Stretch/Optional) Implement Online Multiplayer (requires LAN Multiplayer to be working)	1 week
Feb 22	Finish creating all art	1 week
Feb 24	Implement all art (requires all art to be finished)	1 week
Feb 28	Product Playtesting with LAN or Online Multiplayer (requires LAN to be working) (requires all 3 minigames to be completed)	0.5 weeks
March 2	Refine minigames based on testing feedback (requires product testing to be completed)	0.5 weeks

iii. Team Structure:

Team Roles:

- **Aidan Caughey (Team Lead/Art):** Responsible for overall project direction and the art direction and I'll create the assets / sprite work.
- **Adam Bobich (Project Manager/Game Developer):** Responsible for keeping track of and assigning tasks to team members. Lead on Lickity Split (Tongue Swinging) and Swamp Spotting (Count the Animal) Games.
- **Baron Baker (Gameplay Dev / Art):** Responsible for the development of overall gameplay like character functionality, minigames, and lobby play. Also, I will help with asset / sprite work on level and character design. Additionally, I will be in charge of setting up team meetings with TAs.
- **Chase Bennett (Gameplay Dev / Sound Dev):** Responsible for gameplay development such as minigames, main board, home screen. Also will handle the sound effects, and getting all the sound lines in order.
- **Luke Garci (UI/Multiplayer Setup):** Responsible for configuring the multiplayer aspect of the game. Along with the user interface that allows a user to configure settings and start matches.
- **Ryan Dobkin (Gameplay Systems Dev):** Responsible for gameplay development, specifically regarding systems, such as character interaction, scorekeeping, leaderboards, etc.

Toolset:

- Unity for the game's development which provides a lot of tools for game development and even includes multiplayer functionality
- Trello for task management and tracking progress
- Github for version control and collaboration making sure everyone is working with the same version

Feedback:

Feedback would be most helpful after our first minigame has been implemented. Playtests with non-team members to refine gameplay and identify usability issues from there.

iv. Test Plan & Bugs

- Unit Testing (Input Handling, Physics, Game Logic)
- Network Testing (LAN, Latency handling, Synchronization)
- UI Testing (Scoreboard, HUD)
- Performance Testing (Max Players, Network Load, FPS stability)
- External Playtesting

v. Documentation Plan

- **User Guide:** Game installation, controls and gameplay mechanics.
- **Developer Guide:** how we structured code, implemented minigames and set up networks.
- **In-Game Help:** Instead of relying on external tools to teach player's how to play the game, we want to make sure everything is easy to understand without having to exit the game. Therefore, we want to place a high priority on having each button, icon, or game mechanic make intuitive sense. For elements that cannot be conveyed so intuitively, such as game controls or objectives, we will include tutorial screens to explain prior to the game starting.

9. Software Architecture

Components:

- **Main Menu**
 - Allows the user to choose between joining an existing multiplayer session or joining a new one.
- **Network Lobby**
 - User is able to create a game which will allow other players to join their lobby. Players can press join game and be put into an existing lobby
- **Character Select**
 - Users are able to choose the color of their frog, ready up or go back to the main menu. If all users ready up then they will be moved into the pre lobby.
- **Pre-Lobby**
 - All users can move around freely using W,A,S,D and after a certain amount of time the users will be put into a minigame. Users are sent back to the Pre-Lobby after each minigame to view the leaderboard.
- **Minigames**

- Minigame modules each have unique player controllers, physics and game logic. Players are sent into minigames from the pre-lobby.
- **Player Controller**
 - Allows for user interaction and input handling.
- **Score Manager**
 - Manages every player's scores and displays it with the Scoreboard UI.

Event Flow:

- **Lobby Phase**
- **Minigame Selection**
- **Gameplay Interaction:** Player Controller triggers -> System processes result -> player score updates.
- **Game End:** Minigame completed -> Pre-Lobby -> Repeat until GameEnded is fired.

Interfaces:

- **Main Menu <-> Network Lobby:** Synchronizes the game state across clients.
- **Pre-Lobby <-> Minigames:** Controls game transitions between minigames and the logic execution of each minigame.
- **Player Controller <-> Minigames:** Enables player interactions within minigames.
- **Score Manager <-> Network Lobby:** Score is updated for each player.

Data:

- **Session Data:** Stored in memory, synchronized across clients via Unity's networking. Includes things like sessionID and clientID.
- **Game State:** Managed by the Game Manager. Includes things like player positions (+ velocities and other physics), game timers and game completion (per player).
- **Player Scores:** Tracked locally and updated on all clients. Tallied across multiple games.

Architectural Assumptions:

- Four players will be supported
- The game will run on LAN with low latency

- Players will have stable connections without the need for server-side connections.
- Unity's event system ensures decoupling and scalability.
- LAN-based low-latency communication synchronizes event-driven actions.
- Reliable event handling mechanisms help mitigate synchronization issues.

Alternative Architecture:

- **Cloud-based Multiplayer:** Stretch goal we have is online multiplayer. Enables global play with persistent lobbies, but will have higher latency and would require an external server setup.
- **Peer-to-Peer Networking:** Removes the reliance on a dedicated host, but would have more complex synchronization and also could cause potential security issues.

10. Software Design

Component Breakdown:

Component	Scripts	Pseudocode
Main Menu	MainMenuUI.cs	User clicks Play button and sends him to the Network Lobby User clicks quit and will close the game window
	Loader.cs	Handles loading scenes, both for single-player and multiplayer games using Unity Netcode
Network Lobby	LobbyUI.cs	User clicks create game which creates a host instance User clicks the join game button which creates a client instance

	RibbitRoyaleMultiplayer.cs	Handles multiplayer functionality and synchronizes player information
Character Select	CharacterSelectionUI.cs	Select your frog color User clicks ready button which will then show they're ready above their head
	CharacterSelectReady	If all clients are ready, send to Pre-Lobby scene
Pre-Lobby	PreLobbyManager.cs	Once players connect, they appear on the pre-lobby scene This controls game state (pre-lobby, minigames, end screen) Either connects clients or/and loads scenes and spawns players in
Minigames	Lickity Split (Tongue Swinging)	A/D controls the player's horizontal movement. The mouse controls the player character's tongue (If the mouse is clicked, create a tongue object and attach to the nearest node if in range. If the mouse is released, destroy the tongue connection). Uses the Unity Spring Joint to attach the frog to the node. When swinging, detect which direction the character is swinging and give a little bonus

		<p>movement in that direction for more satisfying swings.</p> <p>Detect when the player reaches the end platform, save their time, and compare it to the other player's times to decide the winner.</p>
	Swamp Spotting (Count the Animal)	<p>Count the specific animal</p> <p>Various animals walk across screen for 30 seconds</p> <p>Question prompting how many of a specific animal</p> <p>Players press interact button to increment their count</p> <p>Score is given based on how close players are to the actual number</p>
	Snake Escape	<p>The objective is to run away from the snake until you reach the finish line or lose the minigame.</p> <p>Players can control the frog to move left, right, and up.</p> <p>Players will have to jump from platform to platform, across trees or puddles, etc.</p> <p>Points are awarded depending on placement among players.</p>
Score	ScoreManager	Score Manager creates and

Manager		keeps track of scoreboards and player scores. It does this by creating an entry for each player/color chosen through Character Select. This is overlaid as a GUI, which is toggleable. If a token is collected, the player's score is updated. All player's rank is updated upon a change in score.
	TokenInstance	Gives functionality to token-type objects. When a player collides with a token instance object, the object will act as a token. The correct player score will be incremented, the token will remove collision and do a bounce, then disappear.

11. Coding Guidelines

Coding Style Guidelines:

- [C# \(Unity\)](#)
- [Shader \(HLSL\)](#)

Enforcement:

- These guidelines align with industry standards and best practices
- Code reviews will ensure compliance of these guidelines