

Terrapin Game Collection Administration and Management System



User Guide

**System Version 1.0
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I. Introduction

Motivation

For this project, I have chosen to explore a personal hobby: Board Games. This is a growing hobby space that has seen a tremendous amount of growth over the past five to ten years. I have been actively involved in this hobby myself for the last four years, with my current collection including over 80 games and more than 40 expansions to those games. I host regular game events, and with such a large and continually growing collection, I have been looking for better ways to organize and manage that collection.

Significance

While comparable hobby communities such as baseball card or sports memorabilia collectors have a number of resources available to them that fill this role of collection management, the board game community is severely lacking in such tools. Only one website exists - www.boardgamegeek.com - that even attempts to catalog all board games as they are released and provide users tools for collection management. According to 2013 statistics, this site has over 780,000 users and received 570 million page views during 2013, which demonstrates the size of a potential user base. Despite the heavy traffic, this site has become large, unwieldy, and has a notoriously poor search engine. No other gaming website generates even a fraction of the web traffic or approaches the scope of content available. Numerous small niche projects have been started to tackle single aspects of this problem, none of which have gained any wide traction in the community. This means there is room for a more comprehensive tool that can bring together many of the strengths smaller projects have attempted to provide.

Objective

My objective for this project is to create a set of web services capable of managing a user's collection and providing a single point of reference for personally relevant board gaming-related information. I plan to create a single tool that will provide services that should join together all of the currently separate aspects of collection management to improve the hobby experience. I additionally plan to provide tools to help customize game meta-data to user's preference, instead of relying on existing static meta-data. For this project to serve its purpose, it should be optimized for the mobile user.

Feature Set

- Search Tools that allow users to search for Board Games by Name
- Distinguish between 'base' game titles and expansion titles, and provide tools to group expansions with their corresponding base game
- Collection Management tools that allow users to add or remove games from their collection
- Game Recommendation tools that generate a list of games from the user's collection satisfying some provided criteria (i.e. 'Games that can be played with six players' or 'Games that play in less than 30 minutes')

- ‘Wish List’ Management that allows users to track games they intend to purchase in the near future
- Game Price comparisons among online vendors (i.e. coolstuffinc.com, miniaturemarket.com, etc.)

II. Quick Start Guide

Site Overview

The Terrapin Collection Manager Site can be accessed from <http://107.188.249.238:8080/tcm>. This site is accessible from traditional web browsers and is compatible with most mobile browsers.



Too Many Games?

The Terrapin Game Collection Manager can help bring order to the chaos. You may not have enough shelf space to fit it all, but with this tool you'll always know what you have. Generate recommendations for your game night, keep tabs on new games in your wish list, and tweak game details like player count or playtime.



Too Many Voices?

The Terrapin Game Collection Manager can help you remember those tutorial videos, game manuals, or FAQs you want to find without having to wade through the noise of other sites. Store just those things you want to find, and your game nights will go that much smoother.

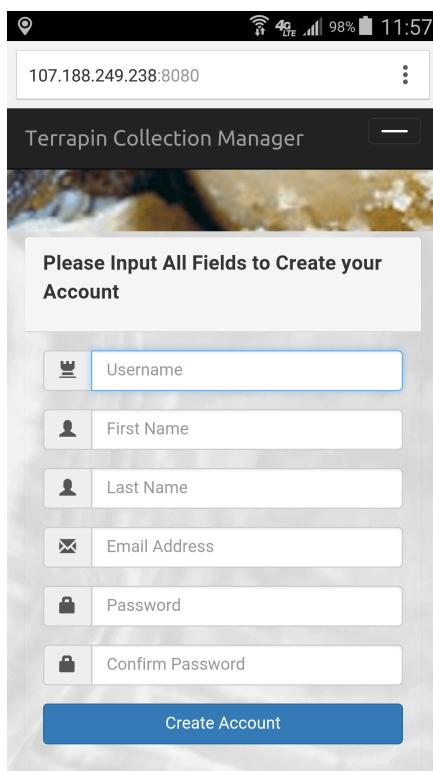
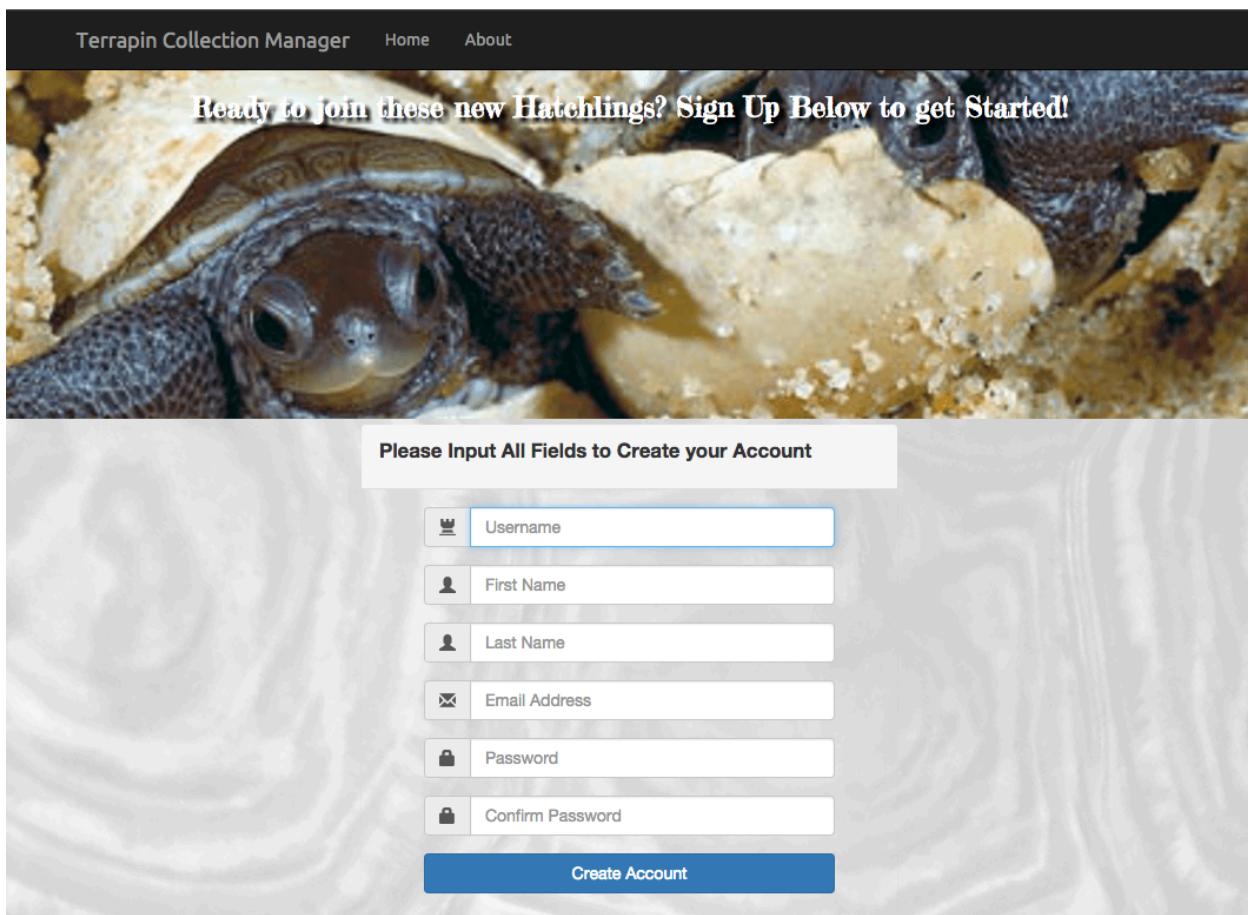


Where To Buy?

The Terrapin Game Collection Manager helps track some of the most common online Board Game vendors and makes it easy for you to compare prices and track availability. It also allows you to add links to other vendors you might be watching so you can see it all in one place.

User Registration

To begin, click on the “Sign Up” Button in the top right corner of the application. Once you click this button, you will be asked to provide your information to create an account as shown:

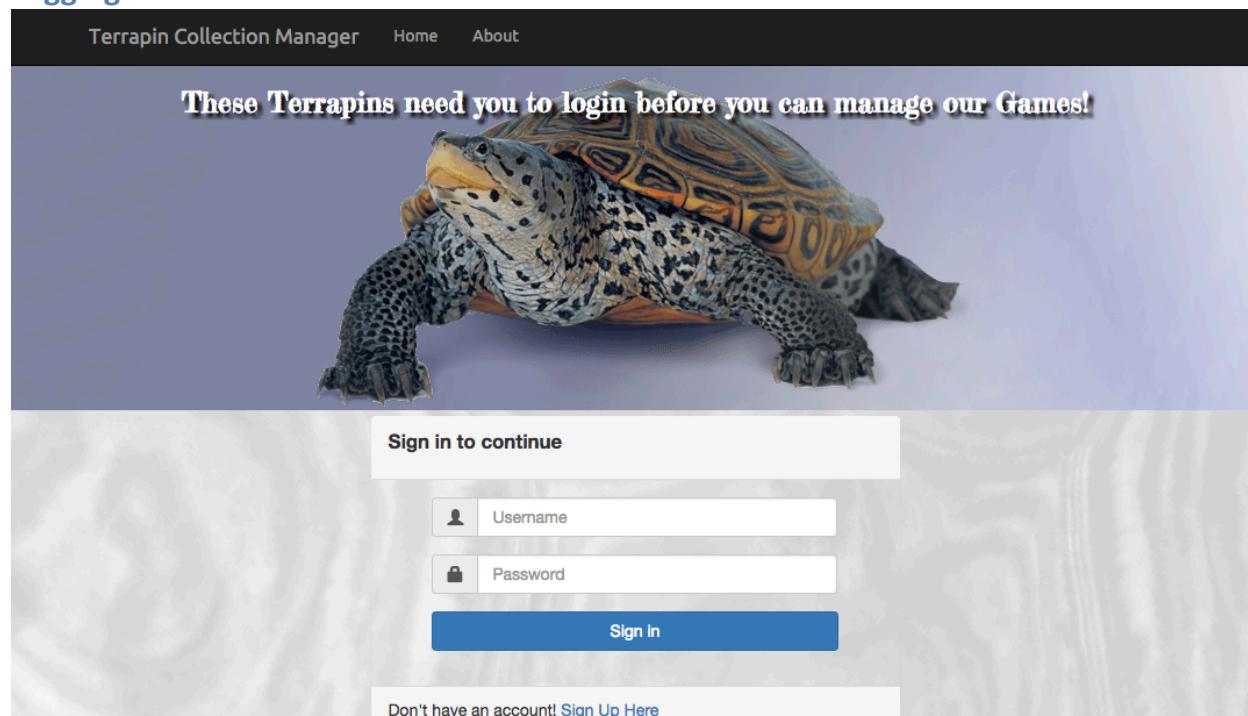


Once you provide the required information, click the Create Account button to generate a new account with the system.

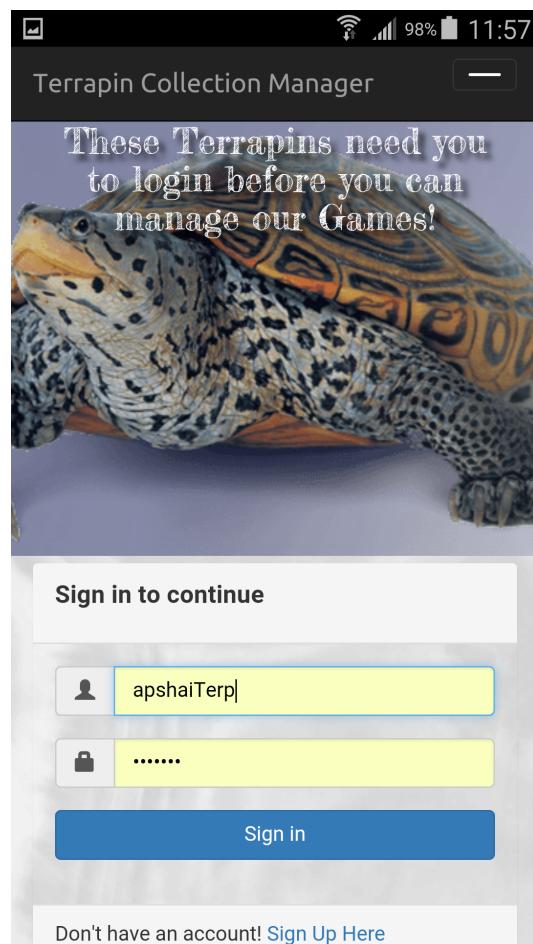
Please be sure to provide all the fields shown here in order to create your new account.

Once you do this, you will be sent to the login page to begin using the application.

Logging In



The screenshot shows the Terrapin Collection Manager login page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "Terrapin Collection Manager", "Home", and "About". Below the navigation bar, a large image of a turtle is displayed with the text "These Terrapins need you to login before you can manage our Games!". A central "Sign in to continue" button is followed by input fields for "Username" and "Password", and a blue "Sign in" button. At the bottom, a link says "Don't have an account! Sign Up Here".



The screenshot shows a mobile device displaying the Terrapin Collection Manager login page. The top status bar shows signal strength, battery level (98%), and the time (11:57). The title "Terrapin Collection Manager" is visible above the login form. The main message "These Terrapins need you to login before you can manage our Games!" is centered over a large image of a turtle. The "Sign in to continue" button is at the top of the form, followed by "Username" and "Password" fields, and a blue "Sign in" button. A "Don't have an account! Sign Up Here" link is at the bottom.

To login and begin using the system, please enter your user name and password from the login page.

Once this has been completed, you will have access to all of the information available through the Terrapin Collection Management Tool!

Collection Home

Once you log in, you will be taken to the home page for the Terrapin Collection Manager, where you will be able to search for new games, view a snapshot of your collection, and interact with all the features available in this system.

Terrapin Collection Manager

Home Collection Recommend Wishlist About Log Out

Welcome to your Game Collection!

Search for Game Search

Collection Summary View Collection

Collection Stats	
Base Games Owned	0
Expansions Owned	0
Collectible Games Owned	0

Favorite Game Mechanisms	
Favorite Mechanism	-
Second Favorite Mechanism	-
Third Favorite Mechanism	-

Favorite Game Designers	
Favorite Designer	-
Second Favorite Designer	-
Third Favorite Designer	-

Favorite Game Publishers	
Favorite Publisher	-
Second Favorite Publisher	-
Third Favorite Publisher	-

III. Collection Management Features

Searching For Games

From the home screen, if you want to search for games to view or potentially add to your collection, you can search for the name of the game from the search window contained just below the banner image.



This field is enabled for auto-completion to help you narrow your choice. Games are presented by the Game Name with the Publisher and year published information added to help differentiate between games with the same names that might exist in multiple versions.

Viewing Games

The screenshot shows the "Game Information" page for the selected game. At the top, there is a header with the AT&T logo, signal strength, battery level (100%), and time (12:35). The title "Terrapin Collection Manager" is also present. The main content area is titled "Game Information". It displays the following details:

Game ID	61188
BoardGameGeek ID	39463
Primary Publisher	Fantasy Flight Games
Game Type	BASE
Player Count	3 - 5 Players
Playing Time	60 Minutes
Publishers	
Arclight, Asterion Press, Edge Entertainment, Fantasy Flight Games, Heidelberger Spieleverlag	
Designers	Bill Eberle, Jack Kittredge, Bill Norton, Peter Olotka, Kevin Wilson
Categories	Bluffing, Negotiation, Science Fiction, Space Exploration
Mechanisms	Hand Management, Partnerships, Variable Player Powers

Once you have selected a game, you can click on the “Search” button to view the Game collection information.

From this page, you will be able to view all the specific information that comes from multiple data sources for this game, including BoardGameGeek data elements.

Further down the page, you will be able to see the Game Box Art, the list of any Expansion titles associated to this game, and price information associated to this game if you are interested in purchasing that game.

Search for Game

Search

Cosmic Encounter (2008)

Add to Collection

Add to Wishlist

Game Information

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Game Art



Game Description

From the Manufacturer

Build a galactic empire... In the depths of space, the alien races of the Cosmos vie with each other for control of the universe. Alliances form and shift from moment to moment, while cataclysmic battles send starships screaming into the warp. Players choose from dozens of alien races, each with its own unique power to further its efforts to build an empire that spans the galaxy. Many classic aliens from earlier editions of this beloved game return, such as the Oracle, the Loser, and the Clone. Newly discovered aliens also join the

Game Expansions (5)



Cosmic Encounter: Cosmic Conflict (2011)

Game ID: 68434

View Game



Cosmic Encounter: Cosmic Alliance (2012)

Game ID: 69174

View Game



Cosmic Encounter: Cosmic Storm (2013)

To view any of the expansions games, simply click the "View Game" button next to each game title.

CoolStuffInc Price Data



Cosmic Encounter Board Game (CSI ID: 136975)

\$41.49 [This Game is In Stock.]

View at CoolStuffInc

MiniatureMarket Price Data



Cosmic Encounter (MM ID: 15138)

\$41.37 [This Game is In Stock.]

View at MiniatureMarket

To view the actual vendor site, simply click on the "View at <Vendor Name>" button next to the price information shown on the screen.

Adding Games to Your Collection

To add a game to your collection, click the “Add to Collection” button. This will add the game to your collection, which can now be viewed from the Collection option shown in the title bar.

This game can easily be removed later.

Adding Games to Your Wish List

To add a game to your wish list, click the “Add to Wishlist” button. This will add the game to your Wishlist, which can now be viewed from the Wishlist option shown in the title bar.

This item can be easily removed later or rolled into your collection when you decide to buy it.

Viewing Your Collection

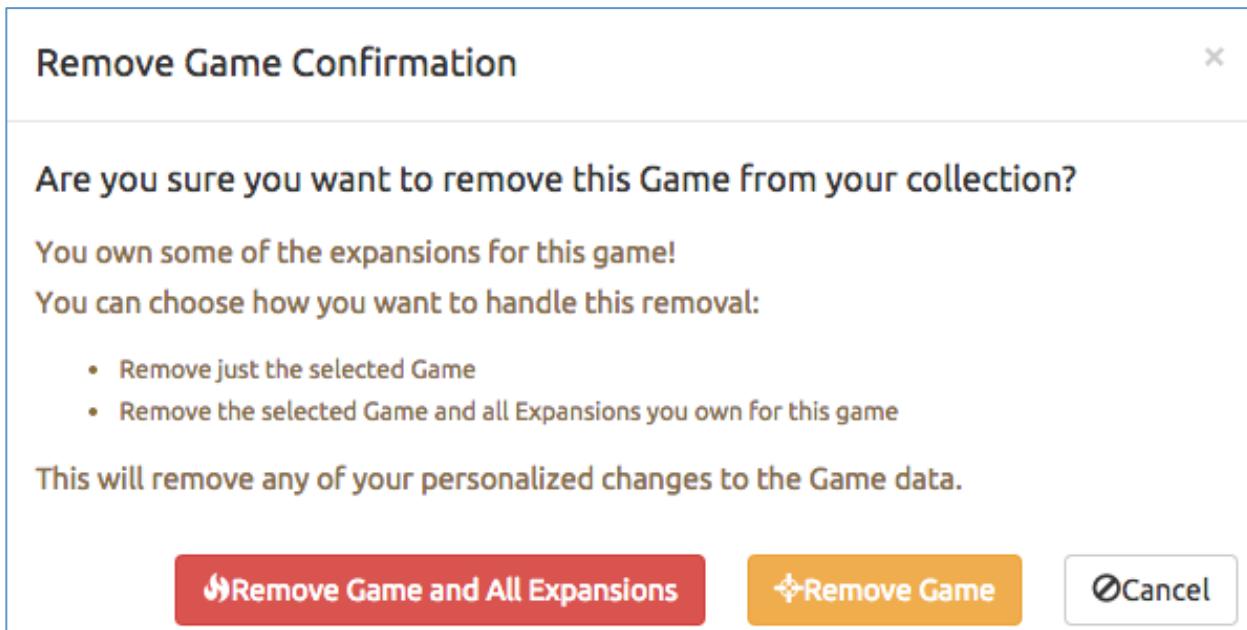
The screenshot shows the Terrapin Collection Manager application. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Collection (which is currently selected), Recommend, Wishlist, and About, along with a Log Out button. Below the navigation bar is a large, artistic illustration of a dragon-like creature and a mouse-like character, with the text "Gaze upon the Wonders of your Collection!" overlaid. Underneath this is a section titled "Collection Statistics" with three buttons: "Base Games Owned" (55), "Expansions Owned" (43), and "Collectible Games Owned" (1). The main area is titled "Full Collection List" and displays four game entries:

- DC Comics Dice Masters: Justice League (2015)**
Game ID: 44333
Player Count: 2 Players
Game Weight: No Weights Selected
Game Publisher: WizKids Games
Playing Time: 60 Minutes
Number of Expansions: 0
[Remove from Collection](#) [View Game](#)
- Baseball Highlights: 2045 (2015)**
Game ID: 47146
Player Count: 1 - 4 Players
Game Weight: MEDIUM
Game Publisher: Eagle-Gryphon Games
Playing Time: 45 - 60 Minutes
Number of Expansions: 5 (5 Owned)
[Remove from Collection](#) [View Game](#)
- Baseball Highlights: 2045 - Coach Expansion (2015)**
Game ID: 72374
[Remove from Collection](#) [View Game](#)
- Baseball Highlights: 2045 - Rally Cap Expansion (2015)**
Game ID: 72375
[Remove from Collection](#) [View Game](#)

From the Collection option, you can view all of the games added to your collection, listed in the order they were added to your collection. From this view, expansions are grouped under the parent game if you own it.

From here, you can view more information on the specific game title by clicking on the “View Game” option. This will take you to a page where you can view and edit game information for your collection.

If you decide to remove a game from your collection, you can click the “Remove from Collection” button. If you click on a Base game, like the “Baseball Highlights 2045” example shown above, you will be prompted to decide if you want to remove all associated expansions as the same time, as shown here:



Viewing Your Wish List

By clicking on the Wishlist option shown in the title bar, you can view all games that have been added to your wish list.

Here you will be able to see all games that have been added to your wish list as well as the current state for all vendor data found for each game.

From this page, you can remove items from your wish list, add the game directly to your collection, or view the detailed game information for that game. Additionally, when vendor information is available, you can click on the Buttons shown to view the game on the vendor site.

Terrapin Collection Manager Home Collection Recommend **Wishlist** About [Log Out](#)

Anything look good here? You can never have enough of a good thing!

Your Wishlist (4 Games)

	Star Wars: X-Wing Miniatures Game - Hounds Tooth Expansion Pack (2015) Game ID: 72676 Player Count: 2 Players Game Type: EXPANSION	Remove from Wishlist	Add to Collection	View Game
	Star Wars X-Wing - Hounds Tooth Expansion Pack Preorder (MM ID: 44445) \$27.57 [Accepting Pre-Orders]	View at MiniatureMarket		

Recommendations Generator

AT&T 100% 13:01

Terrapin Collection Manager

Recommendation Criteria

- Desired Player Count
- Number of Players
- Desired Game Length
- Game Length in Minutes
- Number of Recommendations
- Number of Recommendations
- Desired Game Weight
- Any
- Desired Game Mechanic
- Any

Generate Recommendations

Recommended Games

No Games Have Yet Been Recommended

One important feature of this tool is the ability to generate recommendations based on your current game collection.

These recommendations can be based on any of the shown criteria:

- Player Count
- Game Length
- Game Weight (A subjective value you can set for games in your collection)
- Game Mechanic (i.e. Deckbuilding, Dice Rolling)

You can also specify the number of recommendations you wish to be presented with.

This feature can be of tremendous value in large collections when players are struggling to decide what game(s) they should play for the evening.

This recommendation generator will prioritize newer games in your collection, but will only include games that are part of your collection.

IV. Known Issues

There are several known issues that exist at this time.

- Games with certain special characters (like the ‘&’ symbol) in them do not load correctly in the Game detail page.
- The Auto-Complete Game Search field will not work when the call fails to complete. This will manifest in the Search Button not being clickable. If this happens, reload the page, which should resolve the issue. If this does not, log out and log in again.

For additional support issues, please contact apshaiTerp@yahoo.com.