

Ethical Considerations - Beyond Boardgames

As we create a concept for our boardgame, it is essential to consider the ethical implications of our design choices. Our goal is to create an engaging, inclusive, and responsive game experience. This research outlines the key points considered to ensure our project respects user rights, promotes fairness, and minimizes environmental impact.

1. Data Privacy & Security

- *NFC & QR Code Risks:* Storing and processing player data should comply with GDPR (for Europe) or other relevant privacy laws.
- *Minimal Data Collection:* Only collect necessary data—avoid personal tracking without explicit consent.
- *Secure Connections:* ensure encrypted connections (HTTPS, secure servers).
- *User Consent:* If gathering analytics, players should be informed and given the option to opt out.

2. Accessibility

- *Physical Accessibility:* Ensure that game elements (cards, boards, digital components) are usable for people with disabilities. Consider colour blindness-friendly designs and alternative ways to interact with NFCs/QR codes.
- *Digital Inclusion:* If the game requires a phone, ensure there are low-tech alternatives for players without smartphones.
- *Language & Cultural Sensitivity:* Ensure questions, trivia, or content don't exclude or stereotype any group.

3. Ethical Game Design

- *Fair Play & Transparency:* Avoid mechanics that create unfair advantages for specific players (e.g., pay-to-win elements).
- *Content Sensitivity:* If trivia or knowledge-based, ensure historical facts and information are accurate and not biased.

4. Environmental Impact

- *Sustainable Materials:* Consider eco-friendly production for physical components (recycled materials, minimal plastic).

5. Social & Psychological Impact

- *Avoiding Addictive Mechanics*: Ensure engagement is fun but not overly time-consuming or compulsive.
- *Encouraging Positive Interactions*: If multiplayer, promote teamwork and avoid mechanics that lead to toxic competition.

Sources

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