Introduction

Before analyzing anything, we need to know the coordinates of the top 3 painted pixels. Here are the coordinates (x,y):

- (0,0) 98807 times
- (359,564) 69198 times
- (349,564) 55230 times

Using r/place atlas, we might be able to get some insight into the type of users who placed their pixels in these positions.

The Most Painted Pixel

(0,0) is part of a piece made by the RuneScape community.

When you lose connection to the RuneScape servers, this message appears in the top-left corner of the player's screen. Is the RuneScape community just larger than all of the communities?

x	y	count
int64	int64	int64
0	0	98807
1	1	12083
1	0	11294
0	1	9592
80	9	6042
161	24	5326
162	24	4924
2	0	4721
163	26	4708
2	2	4456
.	.	.
.	.	.
.	.	.
190	33	2
106	32	2
99	32	2
109	8	2
177	32	2
215	27	2
89	20	2
110	7	2

... 7888 rows (20 shown)

If we examine how many times each pixel within the "Connection lost…" piece was placed, we can see that there is a huge difference between (0,0) and the rest of the coordinates (left image).

This observation doesn't explain why the top left corner was painted so often. What makes (0,0) so special?

To answer this question we can expand our scope and examine the top 20 painted pixels for the whole canvas to see if there are any patterns (right image). The most notable coordinates are (0,0), (1999,1999), (1999,0), (1999,999), (999,999), (0,1999), and (0,999). These coordinates are all located at the top/bottom left/right of the canvas (depending on which day you're looking at the canvas).

x	y	count
int64	int64	int64
0	0	98807
359	564	69198
349	564	55230
859	766	52261
860	766	51485
104	768	38086
105	768	34082
1999	1999	31437
1999	0	30882
633	728	30752
1058	756	29295
1999	999	26928
999	999	23271
0	1999	22763
420	420	22365
0	999	22358
780	888	22164
299	372	21183
1059	756	19778
1890	353	19383

20 rows 3 columns

We can hypothesize that the main reason (0,0) is a popular choice among users is because it's located at the corner of the canvas. Moreover, (0,0) remains as the top-left corner of the canvas, even when the canvas expands. If users wanted to place a pixel at the bottom-right corner, the coordinates are different depending on the day the user visits r/place, which can explain why the other "corner pixels" aren't placed as often.

pixel_color	count
#FFFFFF	59282
#000000	8715
#FF4500	4209
#811E9F	2200
#BE0039	2189

If we take a look at what colors users' placed at (0,0), we can see that more than half the time, the pixel is black. This means that there were some users painting the pixel black when it was already black - why?

My theory is that most people do not want to ruin other people's art, so they choose to color the black pixel, black. This theory is supported by a collection of observations:

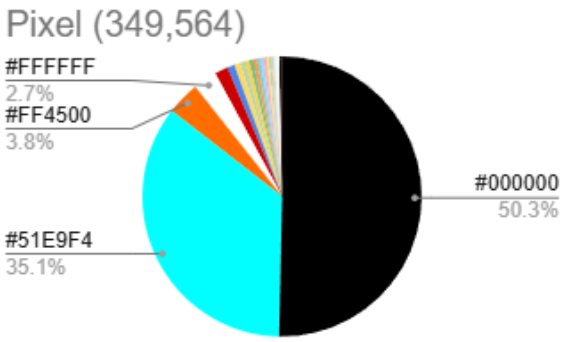
- Ludwig recap 7:02-7:25
- Reddit comment: "Stop ruining other people's art"
- xQc's "The Root" ruin's other communities' art and they are livid
    - Exhibit 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
    - Turkish media covers xQc ruining the Turkish flag on r/place

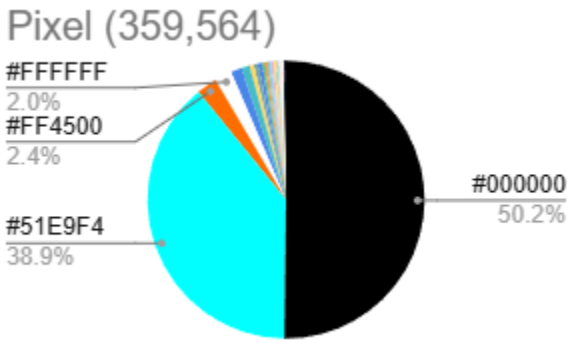
2nd and 3rd Most Painted Pixels

The 2nd and 3rd most painted pixels are both on the Mugiwara Pirates, which was made by the One Piece community. More specifically, the 2nd pixel is where the pupil of the right eye would be (demonstrated by the blue pixel), and the 3rd pixel is at the left eye's pupil.

Originally, the Mugiwara Pirates skull does not have eyes, so why were people painting them?

According to r/place atlas, "Blue pixels were repeatedly placed on the left eye from efforts to make the skull resemble Sans, a skeleton character from the video game Undertale with a similarly glowing eye." (From our perspective this is the right eye.)





If we take the top 5 colors for both pixels, we can at least confirm that there were efforts to make the skull resemble Sans. Black pixels were placed more often than blue pixels. We can hypothesize that the undertale community kept trying to add blue eyes to make the skull resemble Sans, while OnePiece tried to keep the eyes black.

This theory is also supported by various posts made throughout r/OnePiece and r/Undertale.

- Post #1: "So were making the OnePiece skull on r/place's eye look like Sans right?"
- Post #2: "I have a proposal to make. Make sans wear the straw hat, but have the Jolly Roger have a blue eye. Otherwise a truce maybe"
- Post #3: "Really I wanted to make this post to thank the mods of the OnePiece Place Discord…defending the jolly roger's eyes from r/Undertale…"

- Relevant comment: “Helped when I could trying to stop whoever wanted to keep putting blue in the eyes of the skull and crossbones.”

However, this observation doesn’t explain why both of the eyes were being targeted instead of just one. If we dig deeper into r/Undertale there is a comment stating, “THEY FINALLY MADE THE RIGHT EYE BLUE. PEOPLE KEPT MAKING THE LEFT EYE BLUE” which suggests that some people may have been confused about which eye was supposed to be blue. For example, if a moderator told the community to paint Sans’ left eye blue, community members might think of the statement from their point of view rather than Sans’ point of view. At least more than half of users seem to have gotten the blue pixel placement correct, since the right eye (from our pov) has been painted over more than the left eye.