

Game Design Document

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Name of the Game: Village Defender

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Link to the game repository: Github - Village Defender

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1 Overview

[This section is dedicated to summarize the game and to answer important initial questions: what are the game objectives? What makes it unique? Who is the targeted audience? What is the platform for the game? What genre will the game pertain? What is the overall gameplay? These are samples of what an overview section need to have. The goal of this section is to have a quick way to look for the main highlights of the game. A new member on a game development team can read this section to catch up the idea of the game, or in an advanced game design stage a designer can use it to verify if the ideas he has are in harmony with the general idea of the game. The high concept document can evolve to become this section].

1.1 Game abstract

[Summarize the game in a few words].

2022/05/25 The game is about defending and leveling your village. You start as a villager who completes quests to upgrade different buildings inside the village which is surrounded by walls. Outside the walls different materials can be gathered: Wood by woodcutting with an axe, stone by mining with a pickaxe, fish by fishing with a fishing rod, wheat by farming and even more. In the night monsters attack the village which you have to defend. The game ends if the village has fallen.

1.2 Objectives to be achieved by the game

[Describe the benefits to be achieved by making the game. Objectives should guide the design decisions of the game. Any constraint should be linked to objectives to].

2022/05/25 The main objective is to defend the village as long as possible. Therefore you need to achieve smaller objectives:

- Upgrade/construct different buildings in the village (Construction)
- Craft better gear at the different buildings (higher tier, better equipment) (Outwit)
- Complete quests given by NPCs in the village (Alignment)
- Reorder buildings and walls in the village (Alignment & Construction)
- Organize special villager to automate resource gathering (Alignment)

1.3 Core gameplay

[Describe the main activity the player will be doing in the game. Focus on writing why will it be fun?].

2022/05/25 The main activity is gathering resources and upgrading the village. By that the player gets stronger and could also craft better equipment which makes it faster and more fun to gather resources again. This is fun because you can see the progress of the village and get the feeling of becoming stronger. There are different weapon types and upgrades you can work on. Each playthrough you can focus on different upgrades to achieve. Each type of gathering resources will be its own little game of skill.

1.4 Game features

[This section describes the principal characteristics the game will have].

2022/05/25 The player is trying to defend the village. Therefore he can reorder buildings and walls. After each phase, daytime to gather resources and nighttime to defend the village, the game gets harder (monster grow stronger). Purchase upgrades and craft weapons to fight the monsters. Sell items you don't need to trade them for items that are needed. You can upgrade tools to be more efficient while gathering. Some buildings can destroy monsters and can be placed strategically to defend the village.

1.4.1 Genre

[Describe the game genre by defining elements or a common basic rule set that describes the nature of the game].

2022/05/25 The game combines different genres and ideas. Mainly it is a Construction-and-Management-Simulation. It also adds aspects of a tower-defense game. Lastly these genres are combined with the genres of an action and survival game.

1.4.2 Number of players

[Establish the number of players the game has. If the game has multiplayer describe the number of players intended to handle and indicate if the multiplayer game is competitive, cooperative or collaborative. Describe any special mode the game has for multiplayer].

2022/05/25 The game is for single player.

1.4.3 Game theme

[Describe the guidelines to the aesthetics of the game. Some examples of game themes can be: post nuclear earth, Greek mythology or medieval].

2022/05/25 The game theme is medieval. The region which the game takes place is a forest with a small village mostly built out of wood. While progressing in the game the village upgrades to a town made out of stone and better technologies.

1.4.4 Story summary

[Write a brief summary of the history of the game].

2022/05/25 The story will be a narrative introduction to the game. The player, who is a traveling adventurer, starts in a village where he is told that the way he wants to go is not available anymore. So the traveler decides that he wants to stay a few days in the village. The village chief says he can only stay if he helps the other villagers with some tasks. Therefore he helps the farmer to farm wheat with a starter hoe, helps the lumberjack to cut down a tree, helps the blacksmith to gather stone and iron and helps the fisherman to fish up a fish. After that tasks the day is over and the night starts where the first monsters come and the player helps to defend the village. Therefore he reorganizes the village layout and builds a new building which helps to defend the village with the resources the player gathered in the daytime. After constructing

the building the player talks to the old wise woman of the village who gives the player a magic tool to locate monsters. The player decides to stay in the village to defend it until there are no more monsters left.

2 Mechanics

[This section describes the game elements, its attributes, and its interaction rules. All elements that create the game must be detailed and described in this section. A game character, its visual aspect, its sound effects, its personality may be described in this section].

2.1 Game elements categories

[Create game elements categories. This may help to organize better the design and to establish a solid base for reuse. Some examples of game elements categories are: enemy, boss, weapon, world or music].

2022/05/25 This is are the following categories:

- enemy
- item resources
 - mining: stones, gems, ores
 - logs
 - fish
 - monster drops
 - coins
- weapons
 - melee: swords, axes
 - ranged: bows, crossbows
 - magic: staves, scrolls
- armor
- buildings
- world objects: trees, stones, lakes, wheat fields
- NPCs: quest npc, shop npc, controllable npc

2.2 Rules

[Describe the valid actions that the player can do and how the game should respond to these actions].

2022/05/25

If the player loses all its health the game ends.

If all villagers die the game ends because the village is lost.

The player can use tools and weapons, tools can be used on its belonging resource type and weapons can be used on monsters.

The player has a hotbar of 5 useable items.

2.2.1 Interaction rules

[Describe the valid interaction between game elements and the result of the interaction].

2022/05/25

If a player gets hit by a monster he loses health.

The player can pick up items which are placed in his backpack.

The player can equip armor. Weapons and other useable items can be put in the hotbar to interact with.

The player cant move through solid objects (e.g. walls).

The player can start dialogs with npcs.

The player can buy buildings at a special shop npc.

Special resource sources need special equipment to be gathered.

2.2.2 Artificial Intelligence

[Describe here how the game elements should react under different circumstances in the game].

2022/05/25

Monsters try to attack the village.

Monsters attack the player when in range or got attacked by the player.

Quest NPCs and Shop NPCs are to scared to interact in the night.

Controllable NPCs can fight monsters in the night.

Controllable NPCs can gather resources in the day.

Controllable NPCs can hold and equip gear (and have their own inventory).

2.3 Game world elements

[Describe elements that are outside the core gameplay. Some examples of game world elements are: world map or transportation (horse, boat or car)].

2022/05/25

Gathered resources renew after a fixed time.

The world map is a fixed size.

The village area can be extended. In extended area the resources wont renew.

2.4 Game log elements

[Describe elements that register the player progression. Some examples of game log elements can be: score, save or achievement].

2022/05/25

The game can be saved and continued.

The game score is the most survived ingame days.

2.5 Other elements

[Describe any other element that can't be classified on any other element classification in the mechanics].

2022/05/25 Day and night phase is time based.
In the night monsters spawn.

2.6 Assets list

[This section contains the list of every game asset that needs to be created to finish the game].

2022/05/25 Assests get added later on.

3 Dynamics

[This section describes the flow of the game. History, levels, chapters, puzzles, interfaces (hardware and software). This section is directly related with the mechanics section since the dynamics are constructed from the elements in the mechanics].

3.1 Game World

[This section describes the world where the game is played].

2022/05/25 The village is the center of the map. From there you have four directions to go. In the north direction is a forest. In the south direction are fields to farm on. In the west direction is a lake to fish in. Lastly in the east is a quarry.

3.1.1 Game theme details

[Describe the world environment, its ambientation. Put in details how the game world should look, sound and feel].

2022/05/25 You can differentiate into five areas with five different moods during the day. The village should feel alive and busy. There are people running around working and chatting and talking about the life in the village. They are sometimes scared if the defense of the night was close and sometimes happy if special quests got completed. The forest should feel mysterious and vivid, sometimes its foggy. You should see squirrels running around and frogs jumping. In the deeper forest the atmosphere should be more like in a swamp, more fog, more water, darker greens. The fields should feel alive, you see plants moving and growing flowers aside and other villagers trying to work on the fields. The lake should feel quiet and sunny. The quarry should feel dry and dusty, like a hard environment to work in.

In the night all areas should be really dark and scary. Only the village admittes light and the monsters are coming. The mood is threatening.

3.1.2 Missions/levels/chapters Flow

[Describe how the player can navigate through the world in the game, if navigation is linear or he can choose where to go, if he can skip levels or if there are restrictions to enter in some areas].

2022/05/25 There are no restriction to enter areas. The world is open to explore and to gather resources from. The further away resources are from the village, the higher the tier of that item is. The map size is fixed.

3.2 Missions/levels/chapters elements

[This section describes the elements that will form the core gameplay].

2022/05/25 The core gameplay is to upgarde the village and your gear. The first steps in the game is how to acquire different resources with different tools. After the first night you can decide freely which branch of the game you want to focus on. That could be upgrading the village or upgrading the weapons and gear or upgrading tools to gather resources more quickly.

3.2.1 Objectives

[Describe the objectives to achieve in the dynamics of the game].

2022/05/25 The objective is to survive the longest. Each day the monsters get stronger and therefore it will be harder to defend the village.

3.2.2 Rewards

[Rewards to the player for his actions in the game. Like achieving a goal or beating a challenge].

2022/05/25 The reward for winning a night against the monsters are the monster drops which can be turned in to upgrade your items and gear.

3.2.3 Challenges

[Challenges put to the players throughout the game. Some examples of challenges are: a fight, a puzzle or a boss fight].

2022/05/25 The challenge is to put the focus in the right objectives. As the game gets harder you need to progress in the different branches of the game. You need to upgrade tools to gather faster, you need to upgrade the village so it doesn't get run over by the monsters and you need to upgrade gear and weapons to be strong enough to kill the monsters. During that activities you need to organize the controllable npcs to collect and gather resources efficient.

3.3 Special areas

[Describe the areas which not classify as mission, level or chapter. Some examples of special areas are: stores, inns or bonus areas].

2022/05/25 All areas are part of the main level.

3.4 Game interface

[Describe every element of every screen that the player can manipulate. Some screen examples can be: title, options, main, inventory or save].

2022/05/25

- Title
 - Start the game
 - Continue the game
 - Exit the game
 - Scoreboard
- Options
 - Set the controls to new keys

- Save the game
- Leave the game (move to Title screen)
- Main
 - While in village a button to interact with npcs
 - While in village a button to change the [1]
 - A hotbar where the items are displayed
 - A backpack where you can see your items
 - A button to the the tasks of the controllable npcs
 - A button for options which pause the game
- Inventory (Backpack)
 - Equip gear to hotbar
 - Equip armor to armor slots
 - Hotkeys for tools or equip to hotbar
 - Drop/delete items in the backpack
- Layout
 - Able to pick up buildings and place them again out of an hotbar
 - Rotate buildings
 - Move Buildings by dragging them with the mouse

3.5 Controls interface

[Describe how the player can manipulate every screen in the game].

2022/05/25 Inventory, Main and Options get manipulated by navigating with the mouse. You can click buttons or drag and drop items in the inventory. The main level gets manipulated by moving the character, most by interacting with keyboard and mouse. You walk your character with w, a, s, d and interact with items with your left or right mouse button. The Layout for the village can be edited by mouse, drag and drop and a combination of buttons.

3.6 Game Balance

[Describe the elements that are easy to change and can be used to increase or decrease the challenges difficulty. Examples of elements that can easily balance the challenges are enemy speed, life or number of enemies in a fight].

2022/05/25 The game balance is depends on the difficulty of the monsters in the night. The changing attributes will be: number of enemies, health of enemies, speed of enemies, damage of enemies, behaving of enemies (Attacking intelligent, having different attacks in later stages). Also the economy could be adjusted. Higher prices for upgrades, less resources from gathering, fewer drops from monsters.

4 Visuals and Sounds

[This section details what the player sees and hears. This section can be extended in case of augmented reality games like the inclusion of smells].

2022/05/25 No visuals and sounds yet.

4.1 Game visuals

[Describe all the visual aspects of the game used by providing screenshots and short descriptions].

2022/05/25 No visuals yet.

4.2 Game sounds

[Describe all the sound and music used in the game and describe why you use them].

2022/05/25 No sounds yet.

5 Document information

5.1 Definition, acronyms and abbreviations.

[Define all the concepts, acronyms and abbreviations needed to the understanding of this document].

2022/05/25 Term or abbreviation

Definition and acronyms

- hotbar - items you can equip faster with hotkeys
- mobs - monster
- mob drops - items the monster drops

5.2 Document references.

[List all the documents referenced by this GDD and specify where they can be found].

6 Attachments

[Add any other information or relevant document to the design of the game].

6.1 Discussion of formal and dramatic elements (Tracy Fullerton)

6.1.1 Formal elements

The **player** is a voluntary participant who plays the game for long sessions in which they progress in the village by upgrading and construct new buildings and by upgrading the own gear. The **objective** is to survive as long as possible. The subobjectives are to grow stronger. Therefore you gather resources, complete quests, upgrade building, craft weapons and armor and defeat monsters. The **procedures** are clear and achievable. You decide on the branch you want to progress in. For example you decide to upgrade your village walls which you could need wood for. So you start gathering wood with an axe. Each night you defeat monsters to play on. The **rules** are giving a day night cycle in which you try to progress through the day and proof your progress through the night. The different interactions show where the weaknesses of your village or gear are to improve the progress in the different branches of the game. There are three different kinds of **resources**. The first category is the collectable resources. They are used to upgrade gear and buildings or are used in quests. Therefore they are really valuable. The second category is time. You only have a specific amount of time before the day ends and you have to fight the monsters. The third category is health and villagers. If one of these two resources run out you loose the game. The **boundaries** are given. Nobody can be hurt outside the game. The players village is only virtual. The **outcome** is measurable because the game will end but the result is how far you were able to progress.

6.1.2 Dramatic elements

The **challenge** is to become stronger by upgrading your village and your gear. It is important to progress in the right branches to be able to resist the attacks of the monsters in the night. During the **play** the palyer can decide in which branch they wants to focus. There are fixed borders for the map but the player can move freely. The **premise** is a fantasy world with medieval weapons and magic. Your village is in the forest and dependent on itself. The artstyle will be comic/sketch like. The **charachters** of the game should feel alive when in dialog but should be functional during the gathering phase (while no quests are active). Characters should reflect the current siutation of the game. If the nightly fights are too easy to win the charcters should be pretentious and their dialogues should show that. If fights are more hard to win the charchters should be afraid of the next night. The **story** is limited to the introdction. It is used to show the player the game and the main mechanics.

6.2 Paper prototype video

Here is the link for the paper prototype video. The link purpose is only for this project in this module. Do not share this link with others. Thanks.

The video shows the player walking arround gathering resources. In the first part the player is farmin a pumkin. Then he walks into the village. In the inventory is at that point wood and iron which is used to carft an axe at the blacksmith. The axe is equiped in the inventory to the hotbar. (Reminder: The button with the layout changes[1] was an idea later on and wasnt added in the video.) After crafting the axe the player moves on to the forest and cuts down a tree. After collecting the wood the player moves back to the village but during the way it be-

comes nighttime. So the player fights a skeleton. (I probably want to implement that the player is always the center of the screen and the environment is “moving” around the player. I found that really hard to realize in a stop motion movie. That's why I am adding this text. But I hope the general game idea is clear.)

Link: Village Defender - Entertainment Computing

References

- [1] Supercell. Clash of Clans. Game [iOS] [Android]. Supercell, Helsinki, Finland. Last played May 2022. Helsinki, Finland, Mar. 2022.