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JAMES KOTZIAN

SUMMARY

- Game designer with over 2 years of AAA experience
- Passionate about narrative design
- One shipped AAA title (Agents of Mayhem)
- Strong technical background
- Proficient in C++, Scripting, Unity

EDUCATION

University of Michigan | Ann Arbor, MI

Bachelor of Science – Computer Science, May 2016 – GPA: 3.5

EXPERIENCE

Deep Silver Volition | Champaign, IL

Associate Designer III July 2016 - Present

Game Design Intern Summer 2015

- Gaining invaluable team and communication experience by working with writers, programmers, artists, producers, and other designers to help create one cohesive experience
- Sharpening my logical thinking skills with Volition's visual scripting language
- Learning to create and maintain a high-level vision for a design while finding areas of compromise with other disciplines

Detroit Labs | Detroit, MI

iOS Mobile App Development Intern Summer 2014

• Learned how to break down a project into easily digestible tasks, distribute the team's resources to effectively complete those tasks, and how to realistically estimate completion time

PROJECTS

Unannounced Project | Mission Designer

- Working closely with writers to design nearly a third of the missions in Volition's next title
- Creating rapid prototypes of enemies, missions, and other gameplay

Agents of Mayhem | Systems Designer

- Iterated on the design of five of the twelve playable agents and led a drastic re-design of one agent
- Scripted several side missions under severe time constraints
- Designed and implemented two playable DLC agents from the ground up (Gat, Safeword)
- Formed a sound game design foundation by learning from mentors and by taking on a huge amount of responsibility for my first AAA project

Blobbles | Solo Developer

- A fast-paced 2D puzzle game made in Unity that has the player swapping and mixing colorful little creatures in order to protect them
- Accumulating more experience in testing, iterating, and pivoting designs
- This is a game-for-change in disguise where the message is "diversity is strength" and it is conveyed solely through the mechanics

A Spooky Night In | Designer, Programmer, Artist, Producer

- Pivoted to a drastically different design halfway through development to ensure novelty
- Voted 3rd out of 24 games at the University of Michigan Game Development showcase

Virtual Reality Broom Flying | Designer, Programmer

• Earned 2nd amongst 238 teams and over 1,000 participants at the U of M 38-hour Hackathon