

= Wario =

Wario (??? , Wario , [w ? a.ʔi.o]) (English / ?w??rio? /) is a character in Nintendo 's Mario series who was originally designed as an antagonist to Mario . He first appeared in the 1992 Game Boy title Super Mario Land 2 : 6 Golden Coins as the main antagonist and final boss . His name is a portmanteau of Mario 's name and the Japanese word warui (??) , meaning " bad " . Wario was first designed by Hiroji Kiyotake , and is voiced by Charles Martinet , who also voices many other characters in the series .

Since his debut , Wario has become the protagonist and antihero of the Wario Land and WarioWare series , spanning handheld and console markets . In addition to appearances in spin @-@ offs in the Mario series , he appears in cameos for Kirby Super Star Ultra , Densetsu no Stafy 3 and Pilotwings 64 . He has also been featured in other media such as the Super Mario Adventures graphic novel . The character has received a largely positive critical reception and has emerged as a well @-@ established mascot for Nintendo .

= = Concept and creation = =

A possible inspiration for Wario first appeared in the 1985 game Wrecking Crew in the character of Spike , a construction foreman . Although he bears a slight resemblance to Spike , Wario did not debut until 1992 . The first named appearance of the character occurred in the game Super Mario Land 2 : 6 Golden Coins . He was designed by game artist Hiroji Kiyotake . Wario 's design arose from Super Mario Land 's design team 's distaste of making a game based around someone else 's character . The creation of Wario allowed them a character of their own to " symbolize their situation " .

Wario is portrayed as a caricature of Mario ; he has huge , muscular arms , short stubby legs , a large , pointier , zig @-@ zagging moustache , and a bellicose cackle . He also wears a plumber outfit with a yellow and purple color scheme . The name " Wario " is a portmanteau of " Mario " with the Japanese adjective warui (??) meaning " bad " ; hence , a " bad Mario " (further symbolized by the " W " on his hat , an upside down " M ") . Official Nintendo lore states that Wario was a childhood rival to Mario and Luigi who became jealous of their success . Voice actor Charles Martinet , who has voiced Mario since 1995 , is also the voice for Wario . During the audition for the part , Martinet was told to speak in a mean and gruff @-@ sounding tone . He described voicing Wario as a looser task than voicing Mario , since Mario 's speaking manner and personality are more free @-@ flowing , rising from the ground and floating into the air , while one of Wario 's cornerstones is jealousy . Starting with Wario Land : Super Mario Land 3 , Wario experiences rejuvenating effects from garlic in a similar manner as Mario is powered up by mushrooms . Wario often uses bombs , as seen in Wario Land : Super Mario Land 3 , Wario Blast and Mario Kart : Double Dash !! . The WarioWare series prominently uses bombs as a visual motif to represent the time limit .

In video games in which Wario makes a cameo appearance , he is often portrayed as a villain . However , the development team for Wario Land : Shake It ! stated that he was not really a villain , and they did not consider him one during development . They focused on his behavior , which alternates between good and evil . Etsunobu Ebisu , a producer of The Shake Dimension , considered Wario to be a reckless character , who uses his strength to overwhelm others . Tadanori Tsukawaki , the design director of The Shake Dimension , described Wario as manly , and said he was " so uncool that he ends up being extremely cool " . Because of this , he wanted Wario to act macho rather than silly and requested that the art designers emphasize his masculinity . Wario was chosen as the star of the WarioWare series because the developers felt he was the best character for the franchise because he often acted stupid .

= = Appearances = =

== Wario Land series ==

Wario made his first appearance as a villain in the 1992 Game Boy video game Super Mario Land 2 : 6 Golden Coins , in which he captured Mario 's castle . He also served as a villain in the 1993 Japan @-@ only puzzle game Mario & Wario , in which he drops a bucket on the head of Mario , Princess Peach , or Yoshi . This was followed by the first game in the Wario Land series , Wario Land : Super Mario Land 3 (1994) , a platform game which marked Wario 's first appearance as a protagonist and introduced his first villains , Captain Syrup and her Brown Sugar Pirates . His next adventure , 1995 's Virtual Boy Wario Land , plays similarly and incorporates the ability to move in and out of the background . A sequel for the Game Boy title , Wario Land II , was released in 1998 ; it featured Captain Syrup 's return as the antagonist . This game also introduces Wario 's invulnerability , allowing him to be burnt or flattened without sustaining damage . In 2000 Wario Land 3 was released to the Game Boy Color as another sequel ; it used the same mechanics and concepts of its predecessor . The following year , the sequel Wario Land 4 debuted on the Game Boy Advance , incorporating Wario 's ability to become burnt or flattened and reintroducing the ability to become damaged from standard attacks . In 2003 , Wario World , the first console Wario platforming title , was released for the Nintendo GameCube ; it featured three @-@ dimensional graphics and gameplay and did not incorporate any major elements from previous platforming titles . Wario : Master of Disguise was released for the Nintendo DS in 2007 . The game introduced touch screen control of Wario and incorporated puzzles into the gameplay . The series ' most recent release , Wario Land : Shake It ! , was released for the Wii in 2008 and reintroduced Captain Syrup . The game uses a hand @-@ drawn animation style , and Wario 's design required more than 2 @,@ 000 frames of animation .

== WarioWare series ==

In 2003 , the Wario franchise introduced a new series of games , the first of which was WarioWare , Inc . : Mega Microgames ! for the Game Boy Advance . The game 's premise involved Wario 's decision to open a game development company to make money , creating short " microgames " instead of full @-@ fledged games . The title 's gameplay focused on playing a collection of microgames in quick succession . Mega Microgames ! was later remade as WarioWare , Inc . : Mega Party Games ! for the GameCube ; it featured the same microgames but lacked a story mode and focused more on multi @-@ player . In 2004 , two sequels were released for the game . The first was the Game Boy Advance title WarioWare : Twisted ! , which used the cartridge 's tilt sensor to allows microgames to be controlled by tilting the handheld left and right . The second was the Nintendo DS release WarioWare : Touched ! , which incorporates the DS 's touch screen and microphone in its gameplay . One of the Wii 's launch games in 2006 was WarioWare : Smooth Moves , which used the Wii Remote 's motion sensing technologies in a variety of ways . The Nintendo DS and Nintendo DSi have offered two new releases , 2008 's WarioWare : Snapped ! , which can be downloaded with the DSiWare service and uses the DSi 's built @-@ in front camera in its gameplay , and the 2009 Nintendo DS game WarioWare D.I.Y. , which allows players to create microgames . Game & Wario for the Nintendo Wii U was released on June 23 , 2013 . Although it does not use the WarioWare name , it incorporates gameplay and characters from the WarioWare series . The game also pays tribute to the original Game & Watch games .

== Other appearances ==

In 1994 's Wario 's Woods , Wario appears as the main antagonist who wants to take over the forest and is defeated by Toad . That same year , Wario was also in the video game Wario Blast : Featuring Bomberman ! , a remake of a Bomberman title for the Game Boy which incorporated Wario as a playable character . Wario has been a playable character in the Mario Kart series starting with Mario Kart 64 , he has appeared in thirty Mario sports games , including the Mario Tennis , Mario Golf , Mario Baseball , Mario Strikers , and Mario & Sonic series . Wario has also

appeared in all installments of the Mario Party series except Mario Party Advance . Wario is a playable character in two platformers for the Nintendo DS , the remake Super Mario 64 DS (2004) and Yoshi 's Island DS (2006) as an infant version of himself , as well as the 2001 puzzle game Dr. Mario 64 . Sporting both his traditional attire from the Wario Land series and Mario series , and the biker outfit from the WarioWare series , Wario also appears as a playable fighter in Super Smash Bros. Brawl as well as its 2014 follow @-@ up , Super Smash Bros. for Nintendo 3DS and Wii U. Wario 's cameos include aiding protagonist Stafy in the video game Densetsu no Stafy 3 and being present in the scenery of Pilotwings 64 . Wario appears in Super Mario Maker as a Mystery Mushroom costume , once again sporting his biker attire from the WarioWare games . The Super Mario Adventures graphic novel , which is a collection of comics originally serialized in the video gaming magazine Nintendo Power , features Wario in two of the stories . One of the stories focuses on Wario 's past , explaining his rivalry with Mario .

= = Promotion and reception = =

Since his appearance in Wario Land : Super Mario Land 3 , Wario has become a well @-@ established mascot for Nintendo , and he has received a largely positive reception . Nintendo Power described Wario as a " pretty uncool dude " which they " cannot help but like . " They also listed his mustache as one of the best in Nintendo games . Computer and Video Games found the levity of Wario 's games " liberating " compared to big Nintendo franchises such as Mario and The Legend of Zelda . They also mention that , regarding the character , they " empathise more with the hopelessly materialistic Wario than goody brown @-@ shoes Mario . Deep down , we 'd all rather chase pounds over princesses . " IGN editor Travis Fahs comments that while Wario is not the most likeable character , his strong confidence overshadows his flaws and makes him entertaining . The website later ranked Wario 31st in a list of the " Top 100 Videogame Villains " . In the book A Parent 's Guide to Nintendo Games : A Comprehensive Look at the Systems and the Games , Craig Wessel described Wario as a " sinister twist " on Mario . In Icons of Horror and the Supernatural : An Encyclopedia of Our Worst Nightmares , Volume 1 , S. T. Joshi cites Waluigi and Wario as examples of alter egos , and how popular it is to feature such character archetypes .