

# CS310 FINAL REPORT:

## THE ROLE OF BARTLE'S GAMER TYPES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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April 2015



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## **Abstract**

Gamification and analytics are becoming increasingly popular in many facets of everyday life. They are making a big impact in primary and secondary education, driven by the increased use of internet enabled devices in the classroom. This project looks at how this can be translated to higher education, and what role the traditional gamification personality types might have in this field.

# **CHAPTER 1. Opening**

## **1.1 Introduction**

Gamification has become an increasingly influential force in the marketing world over previous years. Indeed, game elements are now ubiquitous in modern applications, especially those that are more social in nature. The benefit of integrating these same techniques into primary and secondary education was clear from the onset, but there has been less enthusiasm for their use in higher education. However, as the spread of gamification means that as more and more of the academic world adopts the same approaches, more work must be done to help understand how users will interact with these systems. This report will examine whether there is a correlation between a common method of categorising gamers and more traditional psychological profiling which can be used to help direct learning.

In order to establish the context for the project, prior work on games, gamification and psychological profiling methods will be examined, followed by an in depth review on the current state of gamification in primary, secondary and tertiary education. With the project framed properly, the research undertaken will be presented, and the results discussed. This project aims to combine the works of computer scientists and psychologists to provide a better understanding of how we may augment our current models, with a particular focus on the uses in higher education. These technologies are already making an impact on the education sector, and it is important that it is understood how users will interact with these systems so that software being developed is more effective.

## **1.2 Key Words**

Gamification, Psychological profiling, Higher education, User typology

## **1.3 Acknowledgements**

## CHAPTER 2. Definitions

Before continuing it is important to define some of the key terms that will be used in this report. Words like gamification and analytics are often bandied around by lots of different parties who all mean similar but subtly different things. Indeed, the way in which these terms have been used thus far has been somewhat vague. For the remainder of the report, the undermentioned should be referred to as a definitive explanation of what is meant by the following technical terms.

### 2.1 Gamification

A commonly accepted definition of gamification put forward by Detarding et al. [7] and supported by Manrique [14] is that gamification is (broadly) “the use of game design elements in non-game contexts”. This is a good explanation in that it makes clear the distinction between games and gamified activities, but what exactly counts as either can often be left ambiguous. This is difficult as it is near impossible to pin down where one stops and the other begins, a problem that is likely to increase as game elements are further incorporated into everyday activities. Indeed, this seems to suggest that rigorously defining what is and is not a game is actually of less value than originally anticipated. Here, a game is best held to refer to experiences that are labelled as games. While this might seem self evident, the majority of the gamified experiences from which we wish to differentiate them do not label themselves as games. It follows that a non game context is often one in which the users have little or no understanding that they are participating in a game, often because they are passively playing, whereas games as defined above generally require more active involvement.

Game elements also need to be outlined in a little more depth. For the purposes of this project, they will be taken to mean those elements of game systems which compel users to play because they are engaging or fun. Alternatively put, the focus is on the mechanics that make games interesting and keep users coming back as opposed to graphical techniques or the platforms they reside on. The reasoning for labelling the latter as such is that these features are not easily ported to other contexts and the ones in which they



are shared are of no relevance to the report. If a non game context begins to feature such things as controller support or complex 3D rendering, one would be hard pressed to justify it as such. As further justification, films are a good example of a field which shares many elements with the graphical techniques employed by modern games but has nothing inherently to do with gamification.

## **2.2 Analytics**

The other component to the project is analytics, with a focus on online learning platforms. In this context analytics refers to feedback systems which collect data on various facets of the learning process. Crucially, they must provide information which can then be used to improve the process further and better understand the dynamics of class makeup and teaching styles, under analysis by either the system itself or a human analyst. This is to provide some differentiation from software which merely reports back statistics such as student or class scores, with no extra dimension by which the effectiveness of the setup as a whole can be bettered. It does not matter if some of the data is collected offline.

Tracking and comparing different sets of statistics in this way shows correlations that might otherwise be missed. Singling out these links is the key to effective improvement of higher education. It is not required for the purposes of this definition that the analysis be automated and carried out by the system itself. In many small scale implementations, such as the one used for this project, the resources available preclude the development of such an advanced piece of software. Indeed, implementing a prototype smart learning platform would be too expensive for many institutions, and excluding them would have a negative impact on the data that could be used in the report.

## **2.3 Gamer and Personality Types**

Throughout the report many references will be made to gamer and personality types. It is important to note that these metrics are not the same, and that they are not necessarily equivalent in any way. Gamer type will be used to refer to the four player types, Achiever, Explorer, Killer and Socialiser, identified by Bartle [2], used to categorise the way in which players behave in games. Personality types will be used to refer to the four temperaments identified by Keirse and Bates [19], [20] which are used to group people according to the ways in which they think and act.

## CHAPTER 3. Background

### 3.1 What is Gamification?

It seems an obvious fact of life that work is dull, and play is fun. Many attempts have been made to change this, but they have largely met with little success. Over recent years, gamification has been slowly blurring the lines of what is considered to be ‘work’ by moving it towards practices and behaviours that would normally be associated with play. This has all come out of a field of study which is still fairly young, the term having only really gained popularity in late 2010, as shown in figure 3.1. Coupled with the advanced user tracking and analytics offered by modern technology, it has begun to dominate the way in which we interact electronically, with services like Facebook and Foursquare being prime examples.

At its core, it is the idea of taking the elements which have allowed traditional games to provide fun and entertainment for all of human history, and using them to transform everyday tasks which many find less interesting. While the results so far of gamified experiences are very promising, with many use cases reporting exponential increases in customer attraction and retention [30], there are some ethical questions raised due to the fact that gamification often takes the form of operant conditioning [18]. While manipulating users in order to stimulate learning is often lauded as being virtuous, using it to sell products and make a profit might not. The ethical concerns raised by this will be explored more in section 8.

### 3.2 How does it work?

The success of gamification in driving engagement has underlying roots in psychology, with gamified experiences being able to satisfy more psychological needs than might normally be considered ‘work’. For example, the feedback mechanisms which typify these experiences, such as progress bars, badges and the awarding of in-game points, help fulfil the need for competence, autonomy, and relatedness which self determination theory identifies as a core need experienced by all human beings [25]. In fact, each of these

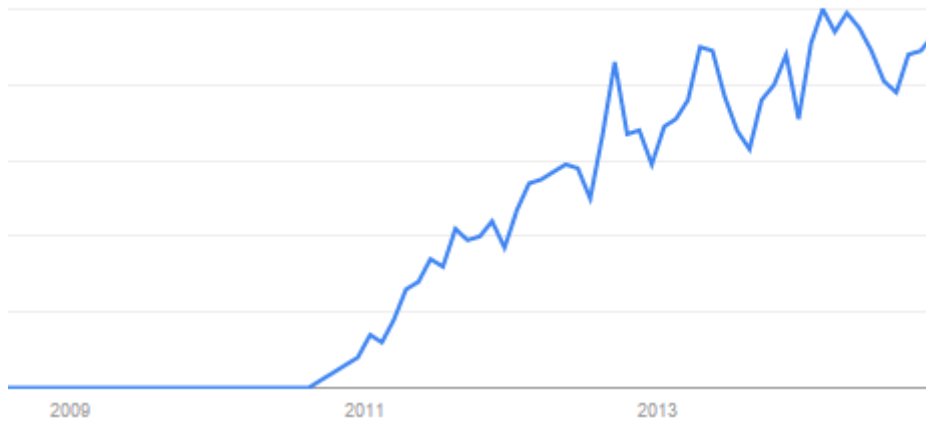


Figure 3.1: Usage of the term ‘gamification’ by month as a proportion of the total number of Google searches for gamification, from 2009 to the present day [13].

factors can be used as independent measures of enjoyment [18]. Players are compelled to complete game actions in order to feel capable, and challenges often use time investment as the principal measure of worth. Traditional games tend to confer rewards and status based on skill, which can alienate a large proportion of the player base who fall outside the top performers. In this way all players feel as if they can succeed if they play the game for long enough, or regularly enough.

As mentioned above, a key part of the psychology behind gamification is that of operant conditioning. Introduced as a concept by Burrhus Skinner [28], it focuses on conditioning organisms to perform tasks that they would not normally undertake. In his experiments, Skinner would place pigeons in boxes and reward them with food whenever they pushed a button in their cage. If every push of the button resulted in a reward, the birds would stop pecking as soon as the food stopped being dispensed. He found that when rewards were awarded on a semi random basis, the animals would continue to peck at the buttons long after the food was gone [18]. This form of conditioning is used to great effect in many forms of gambling, and is the reason gamblers will continue to insert coins into slot machines in the hope that they might get that elusive win (and the resulting emotional high). Indeed, it seems counterintuitive that reducing the frequency of rewards might actually increase uptake by users. It turns out that chasing a win or payoff with slim odds is far more exciting than completing an action with a known reward. In fact, it may well be that the act of achieving a rare reward is motivation in itself, even if there is no real world value attached to it. Thus operant conditioning can be used to keep users

playing even after the activity has ceased to be fun.

### **3.3 High profile examples of gamification**

As gamification expands more and more into everyday life, each sector is being forced to ask the question of how they can keep up. To a certain extent, a change of thinking is required. Increasingly it is becoming a question of why people should be expected to stop having fun in order to learn, watch an advertisement or communicate? [30] Or, put more bluntly, why would they? The rise of gamification has meant that other forms of experience are less effective than they once were, just by virtue of the new competition. What follows are a pair of case studies of gamification employed by high profile organisations meant to serve as a practical example of what exactly gamification and analytics mean in the context of the modern day, and proof of how effective they can be when used to their full potential.

#### **3.3.1 Case Study: Orkut**

An early example of the power of gamification can be seen in Orkut, the social networking site which was developed by Google in early 2004. Orkut was different from other social networks available at the time in that users had profiles operating on three different levels. Information provided by users was divided up into personal, professional and social tiers, with the aim of having users connect on different levels. More interestingly, in terms of gamification, Orkut would provide a real time list of demographics about the current user population [11]. It was one such demographic, usage by country, that began a completely unexpected phenomenon in Brazil. In an attempt to climb to the top of what many began to perceive as a leaderboard, blogs and social media posts started appearing all over Brazilian internet sites urging others to join [30]. By June 2004 the number of Brazilian users had surpassed those from the United States to take the top spot on the usage demographics, and went on to continue climbing rapidly. What had begun as an interesting statistic had motivated thousands of people to become involved in a product to such an extent that Orkut's domination of the Brazilian social network scene did not end until December 2012 when Facebook finally wrested the crown from the Google network [6]. It is important to note that the engagement driven here by gamification was long lasting: Orkut continued to be dominated by Brazilian users even though the initial challenge had ended. Differentiating persistent usage increases over localised surges is vital for successful analysis of gamification applications.

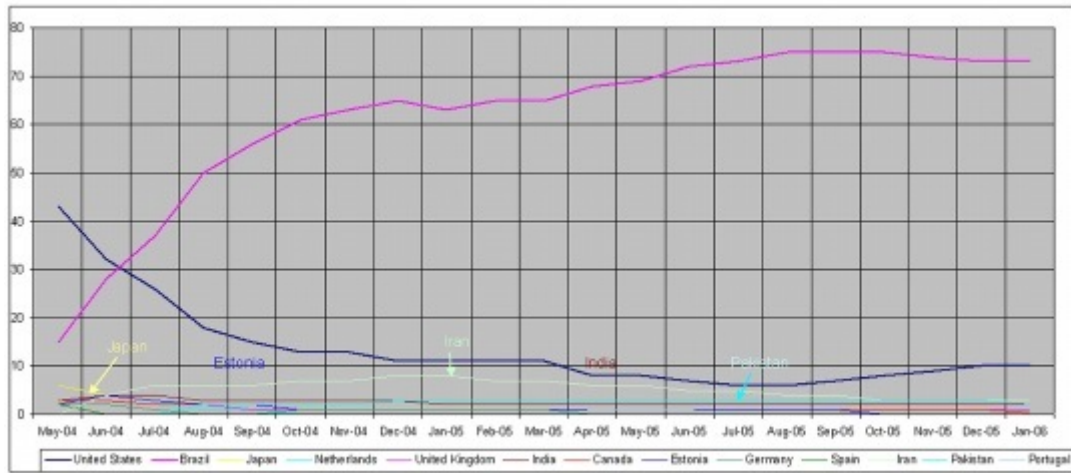


Figure 3.2: Orkut usage as a percentage by country, shown for the top ten nations among the user population. Data from May 2004 to January 2006 [11].

### 3.3.2 Case Study: Frequent Flyer Programs

Since their introduction by airlines in the 1980s, frequent flyer programs have become incredibly popular. What makes them interesting from a gamification perspective is the disproportionate degree of long term loyalty and engagement they inspire in their users. It is not unheard of for customers to take flight options that are longer, less efficient, or indeed entirely superfluous with the sole intent of accruing extra air miles with their chosen carrier. Airlines skilfully employ various game elements in order to persuade customers to keep coming back time and again. The giving of status is ubiquitous among frequent flyer programs, and is something that many are keen to chase. In fact, given that the number of air miles being redeemed is not growing at the same rate as air mile acquisition, as shown in figure 3.3, it could be suggested that for many status is in fact the end goal and not the means as one might at first assume. Zichermann and Linder even go as far as to directly compare such programs to massively multiplayer online games, pointing out the similarity between experience points leading to an increase in level and air miles leading to an increase in status [30]. From the perspective of an involved airline, loyalty schemes are very good for business. Most of the rewards conferred by elite status in a frequent flyer program, such as an airline lounge or expedited boarding, require little or no money to be spent on the part of an airline. More recently, the impact of air miles schemes has expanded to influence almost all parts of everyday life, with points commonly being offered for airline branded credit cards and bookings at partnered hotels. This has all resulted in frequent flyer programs becoming the leading revenue stream for many

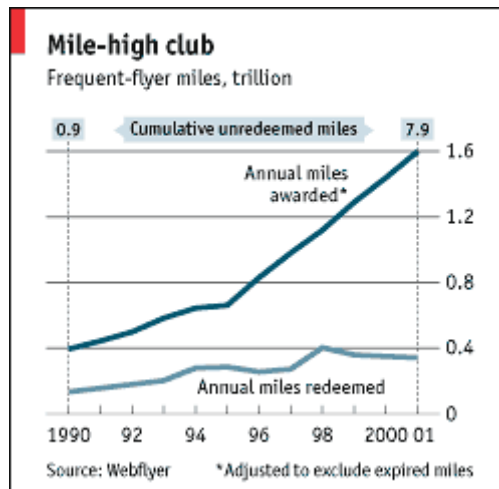


Figure 3.3: Total air miles rewarded and redeemed from 1990 to 2001 [8].

airlines, reporting higher profits and creating entire virtual economies [30].

## CHAPTER 4. Literature Review

Before continuing it is important to undertake a review of previous and current literature in the field, in order to properly frame later findings and analysis. This will begin by broadly assessing past research in the field of gamification as a whole before moving on to the more specific field of higher education. Also included will be an assessment of papers relating to psychological profiling techniques and how they might shed light on learning styles.

### 4.1 Games and Gamification

Scholars have been writing about games and their relationship with sociology for centuries, and this review will begin by examining *Man, Play and Games* by Roger Caillois [5]. Caillois begins by attempting to pin down what exactly he means by a game, and how games can be classified. He concurs with the view expressed above in that this is a difficult task given the wide diversity of games. While most of the book focuses on more traditional games and forms of play, of particular interest is the chapter on the corruption of games in the then modern world. By beginning to draw parallels between the behaviours exhibited in games and the behaviours exhibited in real life, his work can help us to understand which areas of our subject matter might be more easily gamified, and the potential pitfalls we should aim to avoid if this is not done with a due amount of care. While this may seem a little extreme at first glance, the stories of addiction resulting from various online multiplayer and mobile games are enough to warrant more care being taken to monitor the situation than otherwise might be the case. While the examples he presents with regards to the engaging nature of games are often quite antiquated, it does serve to show how little the underlying relationship between humans and games has changed. While the manifestations of the four types of game Caillois identifies (Agon, Alea, Mimicry and Ilinx) have changed markedly over the last fifty years, they still very much exist today. Table 4.1 shows the relationships Caillois claims exists between play types and where they can be found.

A more modern interpretation on what makes games, specifically digital games,

-	Cultural Forms	Institutional Forms	Corruption
AGON (Competition)	Sports	Economic competition and competitive examinations	Violence, Will to power and Trickery
ALEA (Chance)	Lotteries and Casinos	Speculation on the stock market	Superstition, astrology, etc.
MIMICRY (Simulation)	Carnival, Theatre, Cinema and Hero worship	Uniforms and Ceremonial etiquette	Alienation and Split personality
ILINX (Vertigo)	Mountain climbing, Skiing, Tightrope walking and Speed	Professions requiring control of vertigo	Alcoholism and Drugs

Table 4.1: Caillois’s mapping of play types to social life [5]. In this context, vertigo refers to “an attempt to momentarily destroy the stability of perception and inflict a kind of voluptuous panic upon an otherwise lucid mind”.

engaging is offered by Schoenau-Fog [26]. By presenting a survey on what drives the ‘continuation desire’ in players, that is to say the desire they have to pursue the continuation of a game experience, it is possible to better understand what compels the modern game user. The results of the questionnaire can be seen in figure 4.1. Understanding the engagement categories is key to the creation of effective gamified experiences, and it is interesting to see how they fit in with the play types identified by Callois [5]. These categories have a strong basis in psychology, and mesh well with the values of autonomy, competence and relatedness purported by self determination theory that Sheldon and Filak have shown to be unique and basic human psychological needs [27]. However, the Objectives, Activity, Accomplishment and Affect framework Schoenau-Fog puts forward is not very rigorous. Though it is informed by analysis of the survey responses it adds little to the way that people interact with games, and its only real use is as a basis for the player engagement process later on in the paper.

No study relating to gamification would be complete without an assessment of ‘Hearts, clubs, diamonds, spades: Players who suit MUDs’ by Richard Bartle [2]. Written in 1996 it introduced the first real model of gamer personality types, shown in table 4.2, which allow players to be grouped based on the habits and tenancies they exhibit while playing games. Such a model allows users to catered for according to their preferences, as well as



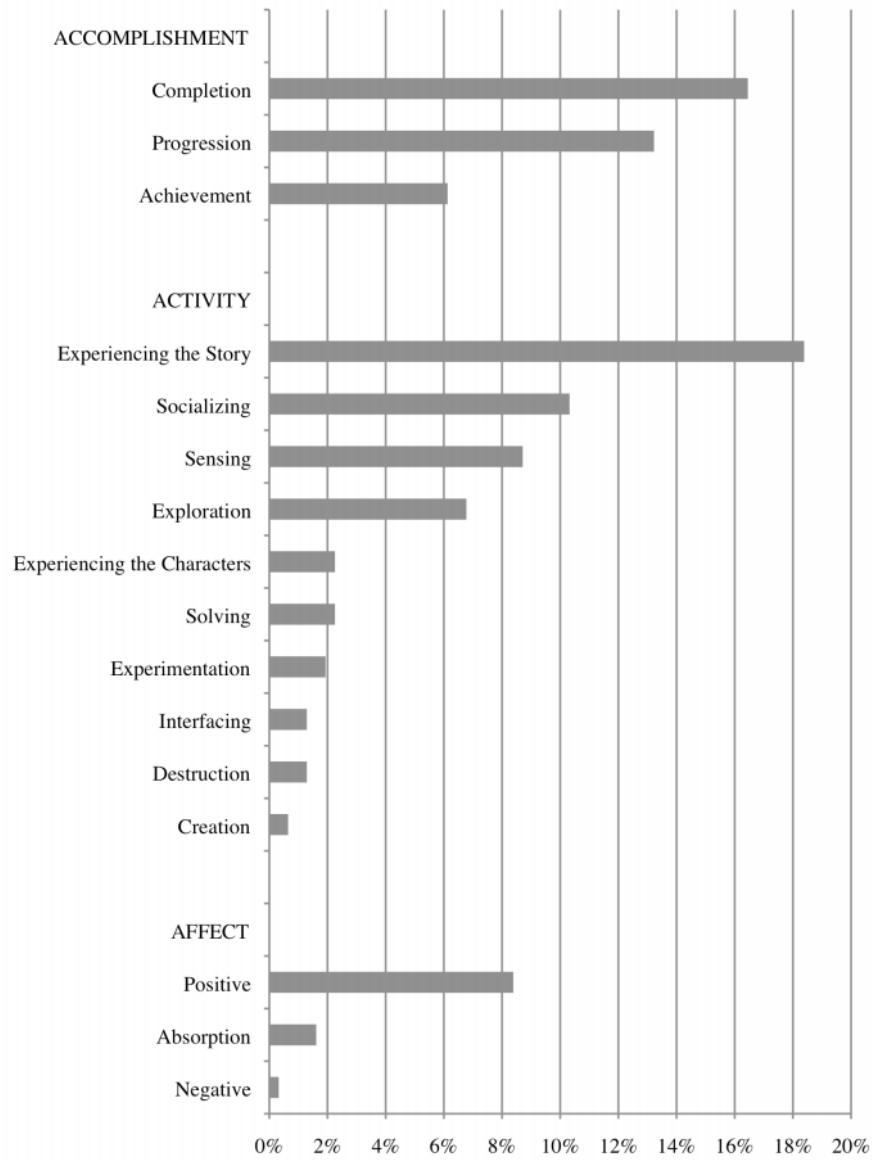


Figure 4.1: Categories of player engagement rank-ordered: “What in a game makes you want to continue playing?” [26].

-	Acting	Interacting
Players	Killers	Socialisers
World	Achievers	Explorers

Table 4.2: Bartle’s four gamer types [2].

allowing game designers to take a more rigorous approach to balancing the behaviours seen in their games. One weakness in the paper which Bartle himself acknowledges is that in not being qualified as a psychologist he is unable to provide an in-depth scientific background to his findings. While the paper lays the groundwork for classifying users by their observed behaviours in-game, its approach is not very granular, and can often be quite a blunt way of grouping people. Bartle did expand this model in his 2005 paper, *Virtual Worlds: Why People Play*, but this was partly to address the changing of players over time, and the only extra distinctions offered are explicit (acting first) and implicit (thinking first) variants of the four presented in the aforementioned 1996 paper [3]. That said, his work has formed the basis for how many identify the ways in which people play games, and has been very influential in the design of gameified systems.

## 4.2 Psychological Profiling

An large part of the project is based upon the works of Katharine Cook Briggs and Isabel Briggs Myers, later expanded on by David Keirsey and Marilyn Bates. Myers and Briggs developed a sixteen type psychometric model which aimed to categorise participants based upon their patterns of action [23]. Each participant is assigned a dominant characteristic of two options for each of four categories, shown in table 4.3 and the relative frequencies of these types likely to be found in a population are shown in table 4.4. Later, in 1984 and 1998, Keirsey and Bates published work on a model of four temperaments, which mapped to sets of the aforementioned types and focuses on the thoughts and feelings of people as opposed to their actions [20] [19]. A mapping of Myers-Briggs types to Keirsey temperaments can be found in table 4.5. Despite being wildly popular in many other sectors, the Myers-Briggs type indicator has come under a lot of criticism in the field of psychology with many textbooks not even valuing it enough to give it a mention, despite the fact that they are actually quite similar [22]. There has been less criticism of the use of Keirsey temperaments, likely owing to the fact that Kiersey’s approach differs from Myers in that he views personality as the difference between people as integrated wholes as opposed to Myers who accepted Carl Jung’s approach of personality as a series of

Preference	Description
[E]xtraversion	“Chooses people as a source of energy”
[I]ntroversion	“”Prefers solitude to recover energy”
I[n]tuition	“Describes himself first as practical”
[S]ensing	“Chooses to describe himself as innovative”
[T]hinking	“More comfortable with impersonal objective judgements”
[F]eeling	“More comfortable with value judgements and less with being objective”
[J]udging	“[Prefers the] closure and settling of things”
[P]ercieving	“[Prefers to] keep things open and fluid”

Table 4.3: An explanation of the 8 Myers-Briggs characteristics [23]. The four dichotomies are E/I, N/S, T/F and J/P.

ISTJ (11-14%)	ISFJ (9-14%)	INFJ (1-3%)	INTJ (2-4%)
ISTP (4-6%)	ISFP (5-9%)	INFP (4-5%)	INTP (3-5%)
ESTP (4-5%)	ESFP (4-9%)	ENFP (6-8%)	ENTP (2-5%)
ESTJ (8-12%)	ESFJ (9-13%)	ENFJ (2-5%)	ENTJ (2-5%)

Table 4.4: Estimated Frequencies of Myers-Briggs Types in the United States Population [10]

integrated elements [17], [19]. This manifests itself as a focus on thoughts and feelings over actions and tools.

The five factor model is another scientifically accepted model of personality which could potentially be used in this context. It categorises people based on openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism. The model was introduced in 1961, but recent interest and work on the ‘Big Five’ only began in 1980 [29]. While empirical evidence has been shown it to be consistent, concerns have been raised with the ‘Big Five’, drawing attention to its lack of a cohesive theory of personality and how it treats the individual factors as unrelated [4], [9]. Of particular note is the fact that there is a lack of theoretical understanding of the psychology behind the five factor model [9] which, along with the prior work done by Konert, Göbel, and Steinmetz [21], was reason why it was not chosen for profiling in this project.

Temperament	Myers-Briggs Subset
Guardian	SJ
Artisan	SP
Idealist	NF
Rational	NT

Table 4.5: How Keirsey Temperaments relate to Myers-Briggs types [19]

### 4.3 Gamification in Education

The 2013 higher education edition of the NMC Horizon Report by Johnson et. al. [15] reiterates the early assertion that while the business world has embraced gamification, the education sector has exhibited a more timid approach. It gives the time to adoption horizon of gamification and games in higher education in 2013 as between two and three years, however it is still listed as such in the 2014 report [16]. This signifies that while small scale adoption of gamification is underway, incorporating these techniques into current practises on a larger scale is not something which can be expected to happen over a short period of time, despite predictions to the contrary. The report also discusses the challenges faced in promoting widespread adoption of the technology, which will be discussed in later sections. Comparing the two reports gives some insight as to the progress that has been made, with the discussion turning from why institutions should implement gamified practises to how they might do so. The report is endorsed by many influential education organisations including Educause, which manages the ‘.edu’ top level domain in the United States. Overall, the independent nature of the report serves to give it credibility, but by not being tied to any particular institution means it may not be acted upon with much vigour.

In *The Gamification of Higher Education* [24], Neil Niman identifies the main challenge of education as it currently exists as it being a system where students are constantly attempting to avert losses instead of chasing success. Particularly in higher education, students have invested so much to get where they are that they are far more concerned with not failing their next exam than taking a risk in order to learn something new. Niman argues that by moving education closer to the gamified social lives that many students already lead, it places learning in a context that students can better understand and engage with. Indeed, it might even shift the goals and outcomes that we look for from students from the current results oriented one to a more idealistic one which values understanding and knowledge over a transcript. An example of this is the ability of

gamification to offer instant feedback on tests and assignments, taking away the stress and importance placed on tests, which might serve to free students from the shackles of examinations. Niman offers insights into the situation that are missed by the more technically focused Horizon Reports, but proposals like recording and tracking every detail of students' lives are far too ambitious to be realised in anything but the long term, and are very intrusive. This is backed up by the timescales given in the Horizon Reports for even basic adoption of gamification [15], [16]. In addition to this, by painting social media interactions as shallow and of little worth, he fails to differentiate his plan to make education a more enriching alternative to online interactions from one which aims to have it compete by lowering its standards to the same level. There is academic support for this concern too: a study by Eric Gilbert and Karrie Karahalios found that social media activity *can* be used to accurately predict the strength of the relationship between two people [12]. As such, it is beneficial to consider Niman's analysis of the social problems facing education, but his proffered solutions should be taken with a pinch of salt.

As mentioned before when discussing profiling literature, a 2013 study by Johannes Konert, Stefan Göbel, and Ralf Steinmetz [21] examined the correlations between Bartle type, Learning Style Inventory and Big Five in students. The outcome of the work was unexpected, in that it showed low correlation, or predictability, between the Big Five or Learning Style Index scores of the participants and their Bartle type. The only exceptions to this were the Socialiser category, which correlated significantly with the contentious dimension of Big Five, and the Achiever category, which correlated significantly with the thinking dimension of the Learning Style Index. The results of the work are shown in figure 4.2. The authors explain these results by pointing out that the sample used was not representative of the personality dimensions of the participating students, a conclusion arrived at due to the fact that the data shows high correlations between normally disparate dimensions of the Big Five and Learning Style Index models. Part of this could also be put down to the fact that the personalities of the 9th grade students who took part are more fluid, but no scientific basis for this is presented. It is also possible that this was influenced by the schools which were chosen. Nonetheless, as the conclusion of the study makes clear, there are no significant links between the components of the models which were examined. Even if the problems identified above were addressed, the amount of correlation that might be experienced would likely still be so small as to be insignificant. It is for these reasons that this project takes a step back from specialised models of learner typography and focuses on a more general model of personality from which inferences of learning style can still be drawn.

		Bartle (Achiever)	Bartle Explorer)	Bartle (Killer)	Bartle (Socializer)	Kolb LSI (Experiencing)	Kolb LSI (Reflecting)	Kolb LSI (Thinking)	Kolb LSI (Doing)	BFI-K (Extraversion)	BFI-K (Agreeableness)	BFI-K (Conscientiousness)	BFI-K (Neuroticism)	BFI-K (Openness)
Bartle (Achiever)	corr.	1	-.260	-.044	-.510**	.075	.203	.277*	-.049	-.121	-.068	-.218	.033	.021
	sig.		.028	.711	.000	.533	.088	.018	.680	.313	.568	.065	.782	.861
Bartle (Explorer)	corr.	-.260*	1	-.547**	.064	-.114	.108	-.005	.136	-.128	.147	.130	-.122	.137
	sig.	.028		.000	.593	.340	.366	.965	.255	.283	.217	.276	.306	.250
Bartle (Killer)	corr.	-.044	-.547**	1	-.619**	.043	-.141	-.061	-.086	.024	-.202	-.202	.138	-.119
	sig.	.711	.000		.000	.717	.239	.608	.473	.841	.089	.089	.247	.318
Bartle (Socializer)	corr.	-.510**	.064	-.619**	1	-.044	-.096	-.145	.004	.155	.191	.276*	-.107	.007
	sig.	.000	.593	.000		.713	.420	.225	.973	.195	.108	.019	.372	.953
Kolb LSI (Exper.)	corr.	.075	-.114	.043	-.044	1	.315**	.518**	.303**	-.146	.042	.054	.032	-.287*
	sig.	.533	.340	.717	.713		.007	.000	.010	.220	.725	.652	.788	.015
Kolb LSI (Reflecting)	corr.	.203	.108	-.141	-.096	.315**	1	.525**	.456**	-.121	-.172	-.115	.114	.022
	sig.	.088	.366	.239	.420	.007		.000	.000	.312	.148	.337	.338	.855
Kolb LSI (Thinking)	corr.	.277*	-.005	-.061	-.145	.518**	.525**	1	.328**	-.197	.064	.004	.019	-.193
	sig.	.018	.965	.608	.225	.000	.000		.005	.097	.593	.974	.876	.104
Kolb LSI (Doing)	corr.	-.049	.136	-.086	.004	.303**	.456**	.328**	1	.060	-.192	-.062	.148	-.038
	sig.	.680	.255	.473	.973	.010	.000	.005		.618	.106	.603	.216	.749
BFI-K (Extrav.)	corr.	-.121	-.128	.024	.155	-.146	-.121	-.197	.060	1	-.047	-.115	-.116	.097
	sig.	.313	.283	.841	.195	.220	.312	.097	.618		.693	.335	.330	.417
BFI-K (Agreeabl.)	corr.	-.068	.147	-.202	.191	.042	-.172	.064	-.192	-.047	1	.037	-.229	-.015
	sig.	.568	.217	.089	.108	.725	.148	.593	.106	.693		.755	.053	.904
BFI-K (Consc.)	corr.	-.218	.130	-.202	.276*	.054	-.115	.004	-.062	-.115	.037	1	-.327**	.149
	sig.	.065	.276	.089	.019	.652	.337	.974	.603	.335	.755		.005	.211
BFI-K (Neurot.)	corr.	.033	-.122	.138	-.107	.032	.114	.019	.148	-.116	-.229	-.327**	1	.234*
	sig.	.782	.306	.247	.372	.788	.338	.876	.216	.330	.053	.005		.048
BFI-K (Openness)	corr.	.021	.137	-.119	.007	-.287*	.022	-.193	-.038	.097	-.015	.149	.234*	1
	sig.	.861	.250	.318	.953	.015	.855	.104	.749	.417	.904	.211	.048	

Figure 4.2: Pearson correlations between the Bartle, Learning Style Inventory and Big Five scores in 72 students. \* significance level 0.01 \*\* significance level 0.05 [21].

## CHAPTER 5. Testing Software

In order to facilitate efficient testing, a bespoke piece of software was engineered in PHP. The software is responsible for collecting data, storing it assigned to a username, and doing preliminary processing on the results. The database used is MySQL, and the data and application files are stored on a server operated by the University of Warwick Computing Society. The software can be found running online at [mcnutty.uwcs.co.uk/dissertation](http://mcnutty.uwcs.co.uk/dissertation).

During development, data and code was insured against loss or corruption by hosting the project in a git repository on GitHub. This meant that copies of the project files existed on the GitHub servers, which are backed up on a regular basis, my own desktop computer, and my laptop. Any two of these sources could be rendered inaccessible and the project could continue with minimal disruption. The software development methodology followed was that of incremental builds. Each feature of the software is built, tested, and integrated separately. This was done to allow rapid development, and made sense given that research for each section of the program was being carried out in parallel with development.

When participants signed up for the study, they were assigned a random 6 digit alphanumeric string as a username. Upon signing in, session variables were set such that any data gathered subsequently would be associated with that username. Results for different question sets are entered sequentially, and the user can choose the order in which questionnaires are completed. When they have finished entering data for a profiling test, a synopsis of the results is presented. This is done in order to provide a layer of transparency to the profiling process, and it is often the case that users are genuinely interested in the results of their own tests.

Once a result set has been collected, the software will calculate dimensional values for the relevant test as a percentage and store them in the database. That is to say that the sum of the survey responses that indicate affinity for a given type, say socialiser, are divided by the total number of responses that have responses which indicate affinity for the socialiser type. For the Keirsey Temperament sorter, the components of the different

dichotomies are treated as if they were individual axes. As such, the Keirsey temperament of a participant can be calculated by reading off the dominant types, or the one with the higher percentage. Because the software was primarily developed to aid with administering the Bartle test it only supports four different dimensions. To get around this problem, the Keirsey Temperament sorter was divided up into two sections. The first section contained questions relating to introversion/extraversion and intuition/sensing dichotomies and the second contained questions for thinking/feeling and judging/perceiving.

## **5.1 Stakeholder Analysis**

Before trying to elicit requirements for the project it was important to determine the key stakeholders involved. This was done by examining existing systems as well as appropriate books on the subject. By considering all of the principal users of the system in this way it can be ensured that all of the required requirements are gathered, and those that are gathered are relevant to the use case of the software.

### **5.1.1 Students**

In terms of contact hours, students are the primary users of the system. They use the software to participate in assignments and testing online. Students want easy to use testing solutions, with as little overhead as possible: exams are already stressful enough. If the software were to be expanded to include learning exercises as well then it would be prudent to prioritise the look and feel more, given that more time would be spent in non-test situations. Students also want a system which is transparent. To this end, instant feedback should be given wherever possible. It is assumed here that students are currently perusing an undergraduate degree, as the applications of such a piece of software for postgraduates is more limited.

### **5.1.2 Teaching Staff**

Teaching staff will use this software to set exams and assignments for classes of students. Once the data has been collected, they will use the analysis it presents to them to inform the way they teach, through grading decisions and seminar assignments. The primary need of faculty staff is a system which provides the analysis they require with minimal effort. Above and beyond this, the software should be easy to use in order to increase its uptake in non-technical departments. Lecturers are also concerned with the security of the data held by such a system. This applies both to the availability of tests they have set



- downtime disrupts deadlines - and the confidentiality of mark schemes and test results.

## **5.2 Requirements Identification**

### **5.2.1 Functional Requirements**

The software should:

- Store questions, users, and responses in a database
- Perform statistical analysis on data collected, as specified by faculty staff
- Report accurate figures on the data provided
- Respond quickly to user input (<500ms)
- Store mappings of answers to questions
- Store mappings of questions to modules
- Store mappings of users to modules

### **5.2.2 Non-functional Requirements**

The software should:

- Keep user responses anonymous
- Provide instant feedback to users
- Provide a streamlined experience for students
- Be accessible to non-technical staff
- Have high availability to students
- Maintain confidentiality of question and answer sets
- Provide a method of verifying results and data are accurate

### **5.3 Code and Database Structure**

A diagram of the database structure can be found in figure 5.1. The fields present have been normalised as much as possible, and every table has only a single primary key. In terms of code structure, every script was classified as either core, static, or normal. Static code encompasses styling and Javascript libraries, whilst core contains those files which are used to support the main scripts by exposing access to the database or handling user objects etc.

### **5.4 Review Against the Specification**

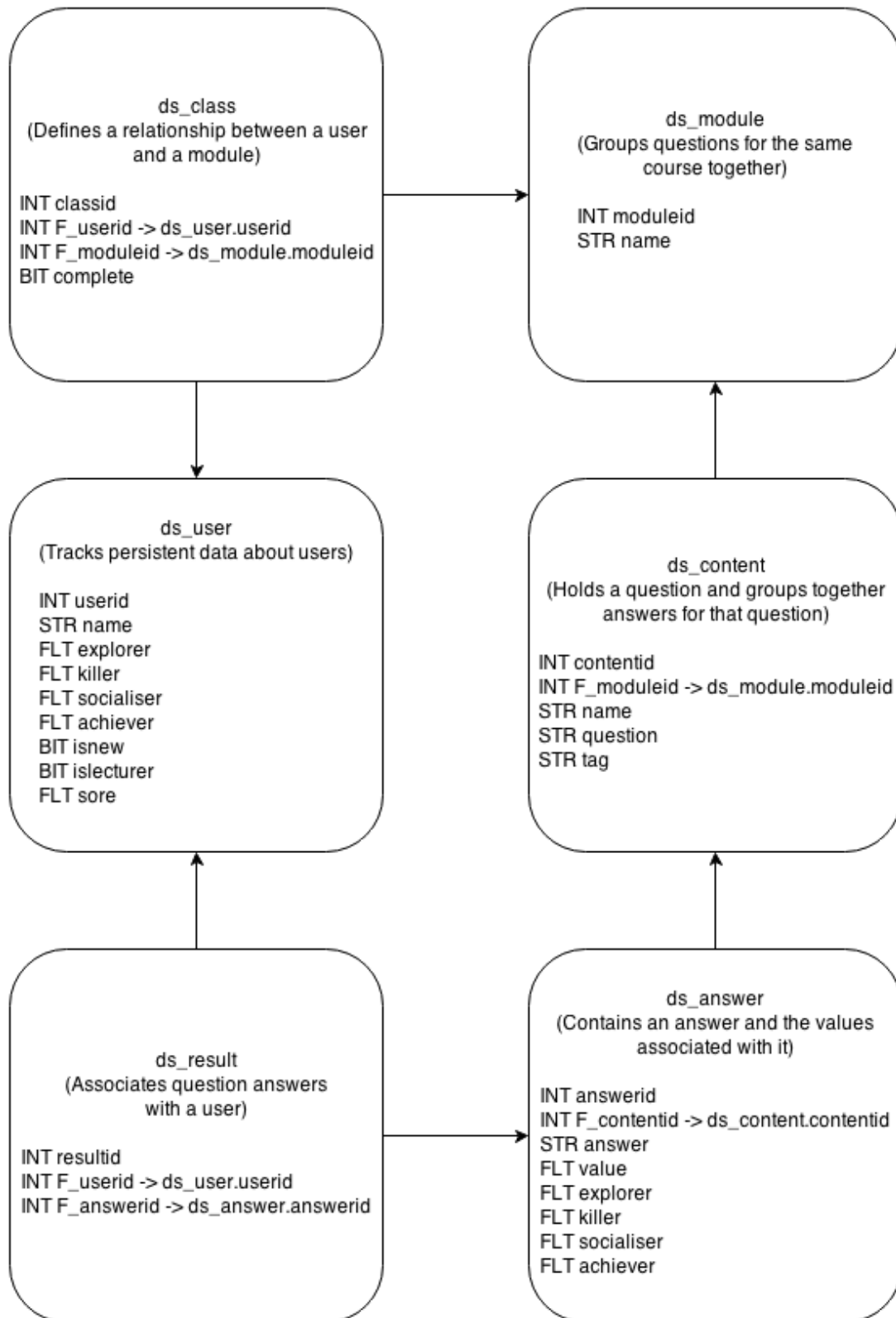


Figure 5.1: Structure of the application database.

## CHAPTER 6. Research Undertaken

In this chapter the objectives and methodology of the study are presented, along with a detailed statistical analysis and discussion of the results. The aim of the work carried out as part of this project is to identify any potential correlation between Bartle gamer types and Keirsey temperaments with the hope of better understanding the human computer interaction implications that arise as gamification becomes more prevalent in higher education. As the target demographic for higher education software [twenty] students, primarily from the University of Warwick, participated in the study. The response rate was [100]%, providing a total of [twenty] complete sets of data. Delegated ethical approval was granted for the study, and the declaration pertaining to the approval can be found in appendix A.

### 6.1 Objectives and Rationale

The aim of the study is to see if there is correlation between two different psychological profiling techniques, one used in a gaming context and one used in an educational context. As the gamification of different everyday life becomes more pronounced, it is important that we understand how this can be best used in education. By gaining a better understanding of human-computer interaction in this way, we can more effectively educate students with these techniques. There is already fairly widespread understanding of how to craft interactive experiences for gamers, and also for learners. The objective here was to inform how a project that combines the two might be leveraged to provide the most fulfilling experience.

### 6.2 Methodology

In order to ascertain the personality and gamer types of each of the participants, they were presented with a copy of the Keirsey Temperament Sorter II and the Bartle Test. Copies of the Keirsey Temperament Sorter and the Bartle test can be found in appendices B and C. Each participant received a printed copy of the Keirsey Temperament Sorter,

which was compiled with a modified version of the LDAPS L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>Xclass. LDAPS is an open source program which provides optical mark recognition for surveys and questionnaires. While the mark recognition features of SDAPS were not used, it provided an excellent framework with which to construct the document distributed to candidates. SDAPS is used under the LaTeX Project Public License, and a full unaltered version can be found at <http://sdaps.org>.

The other half of the study was conducted online, using a specially written piece of testing software hosted on the servers of the University of Warwick Computing Society.

### **6.3 Results**

The results returned by the testing software are used to calculate r and p values for [PEARSON]. Results that are significant at levels of 0.01 and 0.05 are marked accordingly.

### **6.4 Discussion**

## CHAPTER 7. Conclusion and Further Work

## **CHAPTER 8. Legal, Social, Ethical, and Professional Issues**

## CHAPTER 9. Author's Assessment of the Project



## CHAPTER 10. Background Texts

## **APPENDIX A. Declaration of Delegated Ethical Approval**

**Biomedical and Scientific Research Ethics Committee (BSREC):**  
**Supervisors' Declaration of Delegated Ethical Approval**

**SECTION 1. APPLICANT DETAILS**

**1.1 RESEARCHER**

**Researcher's Title:** Mr  
**Researcher's Forename:** William  
**Researcher's Surname:** Seymour

**Researcher's Faculty/School and Department:** Faculty of Science: Dept. of Computer Science

**Researcher's Status:**

**Undergraduate Student** ☒

**Taught Postgraduate Student** ☐

**Name of course/qualification:** Computer Science MEng

**1.2 RESEARCHER'S CONTACT DETAILS**

**Warwick e-mail address:** w.r.seymour@warwick.ac.uk  
**Daytime telephone number:** 07980388130  
**Postal address:** 57 Earlsdon Street, Coventry, CV5 6EL

**1.3 SUPERVISOR – MUST BE COMPLETED FOR ALL STUDENT PROJECTS**

**Supervisor's Title:** Dr  
**Supervisor's Forename:** Mike  
**Supervisor's Surname:** Joy

**Supervisor's Post:** Associate Professor

**Supervisor's Faculty/School and Department:** Faculty of Science: Dept. of Computer Science  
**Supervisor's Warwick e-mail address:** M.S.Joy@warwick.ac.uk  
**Supervisor's daytime telephone number:** +44 24 7652 3368

## SECTION 2. PROJECT DETAILS

<b>2.1 Project Title:</b>	The Role of Bartle's Gamer Types in Higher Education
<b>2.2 Estimated Start Date of Project:</b>	04/06/2014
<b>2.3 Estimated Completion Date of Project:</b>	23/05/2015

### 2.4 PARTICIPANTS

State the total number of planned participants: 20

#### BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS

Where applicable, state the breakdown of participants by type and number of each type of participant, e.g. governors, parents, teachers, etc.:

Type of Participant:	Number:
Student	20

### 2.5 RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

Please explain, in brief, how you will recruit participants to the research study, and how you will address any ethical issues which arise: Recruitment will be done mainly through contacting fellow undergraduates in the department in person, as well as over the Computing Society IRC network. As a secondary form of solicitation, social media platforms may be used. Participants will be informed that any ethical issues that have arisen may be discussed with my supervisor and myself. I will also monitor the project and its participants with the aim of preventing such issues arising in the first case.

## SECTION 3. SIGNATURES AND DECLARATIONS

### 3.1 RESEARCHER/APPLICANT

*I undertake to abide by the University of Warwick's Research Code of Practice in undertaking this study.*

*I understand that the BSREC review system grants ethical approval for projects, and that the seeking and obtaining of all other necessary approvals and permissions prior to starting the project is my responsibility.*

**Name of Researcher:** William Seymour

**Signature:** .....

**Date:** 23/01/15

NB: The researcher/supervisor must post a wet ink signature copy of this form to: BSREC Administrator, B032, Medical School Building, Warwick Medical School, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL.

Copies should be kept by the student and the supervisor, and distributed within the relevant Department according to local procedure.

### 3.2 SUPERVISOR AUTHORISATION FOR STUDENT PROJECTS

*I confirm that I have read this application and will be acting as the student researcher's supervisor for this project.*

*I confirm that the project meets the BSREC Criteria for Supervisors' Delegated Ethical Approval, in that the project will be undertaken by an undergraduate, or taught postgraduate, student, and will be:*

*Limited to interviews, focus groups, and questionnaire completion, or the evaluation of software and e-Learning materials, with participants who are not vulnerable and not dependent (e.g. not receiving health or social care, primary or secondary education, or criminal justice services), where the research does not investigate sensitive or intrusive matters (e.g. health status, criminal activity, or sexual history).*

*I confirm that the proposal is viable and the student has the appropriate skills to undertake the research. Participant recruitment procedures, including the Information Leaflet(s) to be provided and the process for obtaining informed consent, are appropriate, and the ethical issues arising from the project have been addressed in the protocol.*

*I understand that the BSREC review system grants ethical approval for projects, and that the seeking and obtaining of all other necessary approvals and permissions prior to starting the project is the responsibility of the student and their supervisor.*

**Name of Supervisor:** Dr Mike Joy

**Job Title of Supervisor:** Associate Professor

**Signature:** .....

**Date:**

NB: The researcher/supervisor must post a wet ink signature copy of this form to: BSREC Administrator, B032, Medical School Building, Warwick Medical School, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL.

Copies should be kept by the student and the supervisor, and distributed within the relevant Department according to local procedure.

## APPENDIX B. Bartle Test Questions

Presented to study participants through the online testing platform, as written by Erwin Andreasen and Brandon Downey [1].

Are you more comfortable, as a player on a MUD:

+S Talking with friends in a tavern?

+A Out hunting orcs by yourself for experience?

Which is more enjoyable to you?

+A Killing a big monster

+S Bragging about it to your friends?

Which do you enjoy more in MUD quests:

+S Getting involved in the storyline

+A Getting the rewards at the end?

Which would you rather be noticed for on a MUD?:

+A Your equipment

+S Your personality

Would you rather be:

+S Popular

+A Wealthy

Which do you enjoy more on a MUD?:

+S Getting the latest gossip

+A Getting a new item

Which would you enjoy more as a MUD player?

+S Running your own tavern?

+E Making your own maps of the world, then selling them?

What's more important in a MUD to you?

+S The number of people

+E The number of areas to explore

What's more important to you:

+S The quality of roleplaying in a mud

+E The uniqueness of the features, and game mechanic

You are being chased by a monster on a MUD.

Do you:

+S Ask a friend for help in killing it

+E Hide somewhere you know the monster won't follow

You're a player on a mud, and you want to fight a really tough dragon.

How would you approach this problem?

+S Get a big group of players to kill it.

+E Try a variety of weapons and magic against it, until you find its weakness.

You're a player on a mud, and about to go into an unknown dungeon.

You have your choice of one more person for your party.

Do you bring:

+S A bard, who's a good friend of yours and who's great for entertaining you and your friends

+E A wizard, to identify the items that you find there

Is it better to be:

+K Feared

+S Loved

Someone has PK'ed you. Do you want to:

+S Find out why, and try to convince them not to do it again

+K Plot your revenge

Which is more exciting?

+S A well-roleplayed scenario

+K A deadly battle

Which would you enjoy more?

+K Winning a duel with another player

+S Getting accepted by a clan

Would you rather

+K Vanquish your enemies

+S Convince your enemies to work for you, not against you

What's worse:

+K To be without power

+S To be without friends

On a MUD, a new area opens up.

Which do you look forward to more?

+E Exploring the new area, and finding out its history

+A Being the first to get the new equipment from the area

On a MUD, would you rather be known as:

+E Someone who can run from any two points in the world, and really knows their way around.

+A The person with the best, most unique equipment in the game

Would you rather:

+A Become a hero faster than your friends

+E Know more secrets than your friends?

Would you rather:

+E Know where to find things

+A Know how to get things?

Which would you rather do:

+E Solve a riddle no one else has gotten

+A Getting to a certain experience level faster than anyone else

Do you tend to:

+E Know things no one else does

+A Have items no one else does

On a MUD, would rather join a clan of:

+E Scholars

+K Assassins

Would you rather win:

+E A trivia contest

+K An arena battle

If you're alone in an area, do you think:

+E It's safe to explore

+K You'll have to look elsewhere for prey

On a MUD, would rather be known for

+E Knowledge

+K Power

Would you rather:

+K Defeat an enemy

+E Explore a new area

You learn that another player is planning your demise.

Do you:

+E Go to an area your opponent is unfamiliar with and prepare there



+K Attack him before he attacks you

On a mud, would you rather:

+A Have a sword twice as powerful as any other in the game

+K Be the most feared person in the game

On a mud, would you be more prone to brag about:

+K How many other players you've killed

+A Your equipment

Would you rather have:

+K A spell to damage other players

+A A spell that increases the rate at which you gain experience points?

Would you rather have:

+A Two levels of experience

+K An amulet that increases the damage you do against other players by 10%.

Would you rather receive as a quest reward:

+A Experience points

+K A wand with 3 charges of a spell that lets you control other players, against their will. (charm person)

When playing a video game, is it more fun to:

+A Have the highest score on the list?

+K Beat your best friend one-on-one?

## APPENDIX C. Keirsey Temperament Sorter II

Written by David Keirsey [19] and presented on paper to study participants.

Any data collected from you during the course of this study is confidential. It will be stored securely and destroyed at the end of the study. The information you provide will be anonymised and distributed as part of the final report. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact William Seymour at [w.r.seymour@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:w.r.seymour@warwick.ac.uk).

Thank you for participating in this study. Please make it known if if you wish to be informed of the project conclusions. The expected end date of the project is April 2015.

## 1 Keirsey Temperament Sorter II

1.1 When the phone rings do you

- ☐ hurry to get it first
- ☐ hope someone else will answer

1.2 Are you more

- ☐ observant than introspective
- ☐ introspective than observant

1.3 Is it worse to

- ☐ have your head in the clouds
- ☐ be in a rut

1.4 With people are you usually more

- ☐ firm than gentle
- ☐ gentle than firm

1.5 Are you more comfortable making

- ☐ critical judgements
- ☐ value judgements

1.6 Is clutter in the workplace something you

- ☐ take time to straighten up
- ☐ tolerate pretty well

1.7 Is it your way to

- ☐ make up your mind quickly
- ☐ pick and choose at some length

1.8 Waiting in line, do you often

- ☐ chat with others
- ☐ stick to business

1.9 Are you more

- ☐ sensible than ideational
- ☐ ideational than sensible

1.10 Are you more interested in

- ☐ what is actual
- ☐ what is possible

1.11 In making your mind up, are you more likely to go by

- ☐ data
- ☐ desires

1.12 In sizing up others do you tend to be

- ☐ objective and impersonal
- ☐ friendly and personal

1.13 Do you prefer contracts to be

- ☐ signed, sealed and delivered
- ☐ settled on a handshake

1.14 Are you more satisfied having

- ☐ a finished product
- ☐ work in progress

1.15 At a party, do you

- ☐ interact with many, including strangers
- ☐ interact with a few friends

1.16 Do you tend to be more

- ☐ factual than speculative
- ☐ speculative than factual

1.17 Do you like writers who

- ☐ say what they mean
- ☐ use metaphors and symbolism

1.18 Which appeals to you more

- ☐ consistency of thought
- ☐ harmonious relationships

1.19 If you must disappoint someone are you usually

- ☐ frank and straightforward
- ☐ warm and considerate



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1.20 On the job do you want your activities

- ☐ scheduled
- ☐ unscheduled

1.21 Do you often prefer

- ☐ final, unalterable statements
- ☐ tentative, preliminary statements

1.22 Does interacting with strangers

- ☐ energise you
- ☐ tax you

1.23 Facts

- ☐ speak for themselves
- ☐ illustrate points

1.24 Do you find visionaries and theorists

- ☐ somewhat annoying
- ☐ rather fascinating

1.25 In a heated discussion do you

- ☐ stick to your guns
- ☐ look for common ground

1.26 Is it better to be

- ☐ just
- ☐ merciful

1.27 At work, is it natural for you to

- ☐ point out mistakes
- ☐ try to please others

1.28 Are you more comfortable

- ☐ after a decision
- ☐ before a decision

1.29 Do you tend to

- ☐ say right out what's on your mind
- ☐ keep your ears open

1.30 Common sense is

- ☐ usually reliable
- ☐ frequently questionable

1.31 Children often do not

- ☐ make themselves useful enough
- ☐ exercise their fantasy enough

1.32 When you are in charge of others do you tend to be

- ☐ firm and unbending
- ☐ forgiving and lenient

1.33 Are you more often

- ☐ a cool-headed person
- ☐ a warm-hearted person

1.34 Are you more prone to

- ☐ nailing things down
- ☐ exploring the possibilities

1.35 In most situations are you more

- ☐ deliberate than spontaneous
- ☐ spontaneous than deliberate

1.36 Do you think of yourself as

- ☐ an outgoing person
- ☐ a private person

1.37 Are you more frequently

- ☐ a practical sort of person
- ☐ a fanciful sort of person

1.38 Do you speak more in

- ☐ particulars than generalities
- ☐ generalities than particulars

1.39 Which is more of a compliment:

- ☐ "there's a logical person"
- ☐ "there's a more sentimental person"

1.40 Which rules you more

- ☐ your thoughts
- ☐ your feelings

1.41 When finishing a job, do you like to

- ☐ tie up all the loose ends
- ☐ move on to something else

1.42 Do you prefer to work

- ☐ to deadlines
- ☐ just whenever

1.43 Are you the kind of person who

- ☐ is rather talkative
- ☐ doesn't miss much



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1.44 Are you inclined to take what is said

- ☐ more literally
- ☐ more figuratively

1.45 Do you more often see

- ☐ what's right in front of you
- ☐ what can only be imagined

1.46 Is it worse to be

- ☐ a softy
- ☐ hard-nosed

1.47 In trying circumstances are you sometimes

- ☐ too unsympathetic
- ☐ too sympathetic

1.48 Do you tend to choose

- ☐ rather carefully
- ☐ somewhat impulsively

1.49 Are you inclined to be more

- ☐ hurried than leisurely
- ☐ leisurely than hurried

1.50 At work do you tend to

- ☐ be more sociable with your colleagues
- ☐ keep more to yourself

1.51 Are you more likely to trust

- ☐ your experiences
- ☐ your conceptions

1.52 Are you more inclined to feel

- ☐ down to earth
- ☐ somewhat removed

1.53 Do you think of yourself as a

- ☐ tough-minded person
- ☐ tender-hearted person

1.54 Do you value in yourself more that you are

- ☐ reasonable
- ☐ devoted

1.55 Do you usually want things

- ☐ settled and decided
- ☐ just pencilled in

1.56 Would you say that you are more

- ☐ serious and determined
- ☐ easy going

1.57 Do you consider yourself

- ☐ a good conversationalist
- ☐ a good listener

1.58 Do you prize in yourself

- ☐ a strong hold on reality
- ☐ a vivid imagination

1.59 Are you drawn more to

- ☐ fundamentals
- ☐ overtones

1.60 Which seems the greater fault

- ☐ to be too compassionate
- ☐ to be too dispassionate

1.61 Are you swayed more by

- ☐ convincing evidence
- ☐ a touching appeal

1.62 Do you feel better about

- ☐ coming to closure
- ☐ keeping your options open

1.63 Is it preferable mostly to

- ☐ make sure things are arranged
- ☐ just let things happen naturally

1.64 Are you inclined to be

- ☐ easy to approach
- ☐ somewhat reserved

1.65 In stories do you prefer

- ☐ action and adventure
- ☐ fantasy and heroism

1.66 Is it easier for you to

- ☐ put others to good use
- ☐ identify with others

1.67 Which do you wish more for yourself

- ☐ strength of will
- ☐ strength of emotion



sample

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1.68 Do you see yourself as basically

- ☐ thick-skinned
- ☐ thin-skinned

1.69 Do you tend to notice

- ☐ disorderliness
- ☐ opportunities for change

1.70 Are you more

- ☐ routinised than whimsical
- ☐ whimsical than routinised

Please head to [mcnutty.uwcs.co.uk/dissertation](http://mcnutty.uwcs.co.uk/dissertation) to complete the final part of the questionnaire.  
You should log in with your user code, which is sample.



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