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| Software Development Team |
| Let’s Quiz |
| Design Documentation |

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# Overview

## Design History

As you can see, each version will have its own section where you list the major changes made in that iteration. If you use a wiki, this section will be replaced by the editing history feature of the software. This makes it simple and effortless to track changes to the document and to backtrack changes if it becomes necessary.

### Version 1.0

### Version 2.0

#### Version 2.1

#### Version 2.2

### Version 3.0

# Vision Statement

This is where you state your vision for the game. It is typically about 500 words long. Try to capture the essence of your game and convey this to the reader in as compelling and accurate a way as possible.

## Game Logline

In one sentence, describe your game.

## Gameplay Synopsis

Describe how your game plays and what the user experiences. Try to keep it concise — no more than a couple of pages

### Uniqueness

What makes your game unique?

### Mechanics

How does the game function? What is the core play mechanic?

### Setting

What is the setting for your game: The Wild West, the moon, medieval times?

### Look and Feel

Give a summary of the look and feel of the game.

# Audience, Platform, Marketing

## Target audience

Who will buy your game? Describe the demographic you are targeting, including age, gender, and geographic locations.

## Platform

What platform or platforms will your game run on? Why did you choose these platforms?

## System requirements

System requirements might limit your audience, especially on the PC or mobile phones, where the hardware varies widely. Describe what is required to play the game and why those choices were made.

## Top performers

List other top-selling games in the same market. Provide sales figures, release dates, information on sequels and platforms, as well as brief descriptions of each title.

## Feature comparison

Compare your game to the competition. Why would a consumer purchase your game over the others?

## Sales expectations

Provide an estimate of sales over the first year broken down by quarter. How many units will be sold globally, as well as within key markets, like the United States, England, Japan, etc.?

# Legal Analysis

Describe all legal and financial obligations regarding copyrights, trademarks, contracts, and licensing agreements.

# Gameplay

## Overview

This is where you describe the core gameplay. This should tie directly into your physical or software prototype. Use your prototype as the model, and give an overview of how it functions.

## Gameplay description

Provide a detailed description of how the game functions.

## Controls

Map out the game procedures and controls. Use visualizations like control tables and flowcharts, along with descriptions.

### Interfaces

Create wireframes, as described on page ﻿, for every interface the artists will need to create. Each wireframe should include a description of how each interface feature functions. Make sure you detail out the various states for each interface.

### Rules

If you have created a prototype, describing the rules of your game will be much easier. You will need to define all the game objects, concepts, their behaviours, and how they relate to one another in this section.

### Scoring/winning conditions

Describe the scoring system and win conditions. These might be different for single player versus multiplayer or if you have several modes of competition.

## Modes and other features

If your game has different modes of play, such as single and multiplayer modes, or other features that will affect the implementation of the gameplay, you will need to describe them here.

## Levels

The designs for each level should be laid out here. The more detailed the better.

## Flowchart

Create a flowchart showing all the areas and screens that will need to be created.

## Editor

If your game will require the creation of a proprietary level editor, describe the necessary features of the editor and any details on its functionality.

### Features

### Details

# Characters

## Character design

This is where you describe any game characters and their attributes.

## Types

### PCs (player characters)

### NPCs (nonplayer characters):

If your game involves character types, you will need to treat each one as an object, defining its properties and functionality.

#### Behaviour

#### AI

# Story

## Synopsis

If your game includes a story, summarize it here. Keep it down to one or two paragraphs.

## Complete story

This is your chance to outline the entire story. Do so in a way that mirrors the gameplay. Do not just tell your story, but structure it so that it unfolds as the game progresses.

## Backstory

Describe any important elements of your story that do not tie directly into the gameplay. Much of this might not actually make it into the game, but it might be good to have it for reference.

## Narrative devices

Describe the various ways in which you plan to reveal the story. What are the devices you plan to use to tell the story?

## Subplots

Because games are not linear like books and movies, there might be numerous smaller stories interwoven into the main story. Describe each of these subplots and explain how they tie into the gameplay and the master plot.

### Subplot #1

### Subplot #2

# World

If your game involves the creation of a world, you may want to go into detail on all aspects of that world.

## Overview

## Key locations

## Travel

## Mapping

## Scale

## Physical objects

## Weather conditions

## Day and night

## Time

## Physics

## Society/culture

# Media List

List all of the media that will need to be produced. The specifics of your game will dictate what categories you need to include. Be detailed with this list, and create a file naming convention up front. This can avoid a lot of confusion later on.

## Interface assets

## Environments

## Characters

## Animation

## Music and sound effects

# Technical Specification

As mentioned, the technical spec is not always included in the design document. Often it is a separate document prepared in conjunction with the design document. This spec is prepared by the technical lead on the project.

## Technical analysis

### New technology

Is there any new technology that you plan on developing for this game? If so, describe it in detail.

### Major software development tasks

Do you need to do a lot of software development for the game to work? Or are you simply going to license someone else’s engine or use a pre-existing engine that you have created?

### Risks

What are the risks inherent in your strategy?

### Alternatives

Are there any alternatives that can lower the risks and the cost?

### Estimated resources required

Describe the resources you would need to develop the new technology and software needed for the game.

## Development platform and tools

Describe the development platform, as well as any software tools and hardware that are required to produce the game.

### Software

### Hardware

## Delivery

How do you plan to deliver this game? Over the Internet? Via an app service? At a brick-and-mortar location? What is required to accomplish this?

### Required hardware and software

### Required materials

## Game engine

### Technical specs

What are the specs of your game engine?

### Design

Describe the design of your game engine.

#### Features

#### Details

### Collision detection

If your game involves collision detection, how does it work?

#### Features

#### Details

## Interface technical specs

This is where you describe how your interface is designed from a technical perspective. What tools do you plan to use, and how will it function?

### Features

### Details

## Controls’ technical specs

This is where you describe how your controls work from a technical perspective. Are you planning on supporting any unusual input devices that would require specialized programming?

### Features

### Details

## Lighting models

Lighting can be a substantial part of a game. Describe how it works and the features that you require.

### Modes

### Features

### Details

### Models

### Light sources

## Rendering system

### Technical specs

### 2D/3D rendering

### Camera

### Operation

### Features

### Details

## Internet/network spec

If your game requires an Internet connection, you should make that clear in the specs.

## System parameters

I won’t go into detail on all the possible system parameters, but suffice to say that the design document should list them all and describe their functionality.

### Max players

### Servers

### Customization

### Connectivity

### Websites

### Persistence

### Saving games

### Loading games

## Other

This section is for any other technical specifications that should be included, such as help menus, manuals, setup and installation routines, etc.

### Help

### Manual

### Setup