

1 Target Users

We recruited 3 participants. Our participants were our friends. Our target audience is ourselves, and those interested in the ideas we are exploring in our project (procedural generation, etc.). Thus, our friends are good choices.

2 Methods

We conducted semi-structured interviews. Each participant was asked questions about the user interface. How well structured is the interface? Is it easy to tell which parts serve which purpose? How satisfying is the interaction with the interface? We wrote the answers down.

Our questions are open-ended. Scale-based questions would be pointless with such a small sample. How might we interpret 4/10, for example? What should we do to get a higher number? We do not know.

We then ran through a sample game with the participant. The participant wrote their commands on paper and we wrote the result, mimicking our prototype. These sample games are on paper, which we have kept, as reference.

We paid attention to which responses caused which reactions from the user. For example, users often wished for more information about which actions were available to them.

3 Results

Our interviewees were frustrated with the lack of direction in the game. They didn't know what the goal of the game was. Is there a story? It was not clear to them what to do or why. Our mechanics for procedural generation are not communicated adequately by merely placing the player in an environment meant for exploration.

The users often tried commands that we had not thought of.

The graphical interface is clear to the users, as expected.

4 Analysis of Results

Our users had trouble deciding what actions they could take, so we should provide suggested commands to them.

We must change our design to provide clearer feedback when users use invalid commands.

We ought to find a way to make it clear to the users how the item and world systems function, rather than leaving it entirely up to exploration.

A story would be good too, but difficult to insert into our design. It may be too open-ended to be feasible.

We might need to provide some objectives to our users so they know what they are trying to achieve. Theses could come in the form of "quests".