

Game Design Document

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Name of the Game: Astroventure

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Tutorial: 1

Link to game repository: <https://github.com/saugata-biswas/Astroventure.git>

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Overview

Astroventure is a role playing game(RPG) where the main objective is to complete a rescue mission. There will be two main Non-Player Characters(NPC) in the game. The roles of these NPCs are not predefined. Their behavior to the player will be determined by the game state. These NPCs have their own objective: to gain most control of the resources compared to the other one. The player has to outwit the NPCs to make his way. This is the main feature of the game. Currently, Astroventure is intended for PC, e.g., Windows or Linux.

Game abstract

Astroventure takes place in a huge spaceship. The player character is an astronaut who lands at this spaceship. His main objective is to capture a mystery item from the ship's cargo. The spaceship is a self-sustaining one. It has two artificially intelligent agents. These AI NPCs are controlling the spaceship. Each of the NPCs control some sentinels/bots. These bots will help/hinder the player depending on the NPCs controlling them. The player is an unwanted guest, hence, he has to outwit or subjugate the NPCs to reach his goal. The game will have multiple levels(at least 3/4). When the player will enter these levels, he will have limited resources with him. He will need to fight/convince the NPCs to let him through the level.

Objectives to be achieved by the game

In Astroventure, the player has to defeat, negotiate, subjugate or convince the AI NPCs to gain resources, which the player will use access to the mystery box. Basically, it will try to mimic a balance in the three main characters: the player and the two NPCs. Most of the time, when the player becomes friend to one NPC, the other will become his enemy. This is the core dynamic that the game would approach.

Core gameplay

In each level, the NPCs controls some sentinels/bots. These bots only listen or respond to its master NPC. The NPCs also hold control of other game resources, e.g. weapons, oxygen, food etc. The player needs to gain access to these resources to finish the level. The sentinels/bots usually will oppose the player. The player has to utilize on the fact that the NPCs also oppose each other. The player has to fight or negotiate to make friend with atleast one of the NPCs which will make the other NPC his enemy. A friendly NPC will grant access to the resources. On the contrary, an unfriendly NPC will hinder the player. This will lead to conflict in the game.

Game features

The game would not have a clear distinction between friendly and enemy NPCs. The player has to find out how he/she will develop the relationship with the NPCs to progress through the game.

Genre

Astroventure is a RPG with rescue as its main objective. However, it is also an action game as the player has to fight with the sentinels/bots to make his way.

Number of players

Currently, Astroventure is intended to be a single player game.

Game theme

The game will take place in a futuristic spaceship. The spaceship has a lot of chambers. Each level will happen in a chamber. Currently, only three to four levels will be developed.

Story summary

A strange big shaceship as a mysterious cargo. This item needs to be inspected. The player character is assigned to inspect and collect the item. However, the spaceship environment is unknown to the player. The player character docks his space vehicle to the spaceship to gain entry. The game starts here.

Mechanics

The spaceship is rotated on its own axis, hence, it has a artificial gravitational pull. Hence, every object which has a mass will affected by gravity. The NPC will have cannot be shot/destroyed by the weapons found on the spaceship. They are immnue to weapons since they are merely holographic representatons.

Game elements categories

Category name	Description
Player character	This will be a single player charater.
NPC0(yet to be named)	This NPC controls some sentinels/bots
NPC1(yet to be named)	This NPC will have similar characteristics as the NPC0
sentinels/bots	These sentinels/bots control will be specific to a game level

Rules

When the player enters the level, the NPCs are suspicious of the player and regard him as emeny. The player fights the sentinels/bots sent by the NPCs.

Interaction rules

Interaction rule	results
Dialogue using emojis	This will be to used to either accept or reject a proposal. Emojis will also be used to show mental states of NPCs

Interaction rule	results
Guns	Upon firing guns on the sentinels/bots those would be destroyed. NPCs cannot be destroyed

Artificial intelligence

A probabilistic graphical model or decision tree will be used to determine which of the NPCs behaves how, e.g. as friend or foe.

Game world elements

Game world is a spaceship. A limited map of it can be accessed by the player. Sometimes the player can use some floating device to go up in a level

Game log elements

Health, oxygen, enemys killed/neutralized etc. will be logged.

Other elements

There could be some isolated NPCs which aren't controlled by the two main AI NPCs.

Assets list

Asset	Description
Player character	main character that the player can control
NPC0 and NPC1	Floating holograms
sentinels/bots	The gameobjects that fights with the player or assists him
Guns	Used to kill the sentinels/bots

Asset	Description
Oxygen cylinder	Used to sustain player character's life
Electro-magnetic pulse(EMP) gun	Special gun that can disrupt the AI NPCs prior belief/attitudes

Dynamics

Game world

The game takes place on a spaceship with artificial gravity. Upon using the EMP gun, the ship's electrical equipments can malfunction. The gravitational pull can disappear temporarily.

Game world theme details

Game world is a futuristic spaceship. It would have an industrial interior.

Missions/levels/chapters flow

There will be 3/4 levels in the game. Levels would have increasing difficulty. More choice of weapons will be available as the game progresses. Higher level can have betrayal by the friendly NPCs. Hence, the player has to be more careful in a higher level.

Missions/levels/chapters elements

Core gameplay will be formed mainly by the temporal contract among the player and the AI NPCs.

Objectives

- The player has to reach to the mystery item to be inspected or rescued.
- The player has to finish each levels to reach to the mystery object.

- The player has to make friends with atleast one AI NPC to progress through the level.

Rewards

- When a the player make friend/subjugate an AI NPC, it assists the player by giving up some weapons or fighting the other AI NPC.

Challenges

- Fight through the sentinels/bots
- Manipulate the AI NPCs to gain resources
- Use EMP gun when necessary

Special areas

- There are no special areas planned currently.

Game interface

The player can mainly manipulate the inventory.

Controls interface

The game will be seen from 3rd person perspective. The player needs to control the camera view to see most of the environment. An assisted camera might be available during gameplay.

Game balance

Game difficulty can be adjusted initially. It would increase/decrease the game uncertainty in the AI NPCs' belief system.

Visuals and sounds

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Game visuals

At first, freely available assets from asset store will be used for the player character, NPCs, sentinels/bots. Some of the visuals can be updated later.

Game sounds

Curretly, only freely available sounds/music will be used.

Document information

Document information will be constantly updated.

Document-acronyms-and-abbreviations

Abbreviation, acronym	Full form
NPC	Non-Player Character
RPG	Role Playing Game
AI	Artificial Intelligence

Document references

Currently, no references are given.

Attachments

Currently, there are no attachments.