Project Leviathan

Die or King

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Zhaoyuan Sun ZS Signature.png

Weimu Song

Yuqi Zhou

Song Luo

Zezhi Xia

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# 1. Executive Summary

* Each game has two modes, Safari mode and Arena mode, switching back and forth constantly.
* All team members are bounded by a red line for death, as the team members may change randomly during the game.
* The difficulty of enemies will be modified by performance of players in real-time.
* The game will use Cel-shading (cartoon rendering) technique in the oil painting style. The art style refers to both map of League of Legend and characters of HellDivers.
* The background music will be more epic when it comes to final battle of fewer players.

# 2. Game Overview

## 2.1 High Concept Statement (a refined version of the original)

### 2.1.1 Game Concept

“Project Leviathan” is a science fantasy battle royale top-down online shooter game that has a various selection of heroes, weapons and gears. The player needs to collaborate with other players online in order to survive from the challenges by gathering resources, trading abilities and making alliances. Meanwhile, no one wants his alliances to be too strong, because whoever survives till the last is the winner; and he/she can gain the invincible power from the “Title of the King.”

### 2.1.2 Player Motivation

In the Project Leviathan, players can experience the intensive fast-paced top-down online shooter game. It has the natural advantages of the tactical planning from the top-down shooter game. Meanwhile, it doesn’t lost any fun of competitiveness from the online shooter game. By armoring their heroes with advanced equipment and abilities, players can easily lose themselves in the intensity of every battle with enemies and other players.

Each game will have two modes (Safari mode and Arena mode) changing constantly. In Safari mode, the difficulty of the computer-controlled enemies are constantly adjusting to the performance of all the players. This ensures that the players can always find their suitable enemies at all times. Meanwhile, the players need to watch over their teammates, because a single death in the team would cause everybody to fail the game. In the Arena mode, you cannot trust your teammates anymore. The players need to be able to tackle any incoming threat from other players, because from now on, your only friend is yourself.

### 2.1.3 Unique Selling Points

The Project Leviathan is completely different from other shooter games because players always need to think of some strategies to help other players to survive in the Safari mode; meanwhile they need to keep their trump cards to kill others effectively in the Arena mode.

### 2.1.4 Design Goals

The design goal of the Project Leviathan is to give players various winning strategies. It should be random enough so that the players need to change their survival plans on the go.

### 2.1.5 Additional Design Details

* **Trade System**

The trade system that I designed in the Project Leviathan is the one of the bulleted points. Since in the Safari mode, if the other players die, you will die, too. Then, giving others your qualified armors or fascinating ultimate abilities will play a major role in that mode. However, your help could make others survive in the Safari mode, and it could also make your life harder in the Arena mode; because whatever the weapon or ability you gave to the other players, they could turn that weapon or ability against you.

This brings another major design in the Project Leviathan – the balance system. guarantee some players would not put his full effort in fighting against enemies, because there will always be someone to help him out. Therefore, I designed the so-called balance system. This system brings up several modifications on the trading system to avoid someone to use the strategy I mentioned above.

Fix 1: limits the number of slots of players’ backpack.

Fix 2: If a player received items from others, he/she needs to “pay” them back.

Fix 3: Introduces a special and powerful bullet - the friendship bullet. This will make a major impact on the boss or enemies, but players could only give this out one bullet a time.

* **Miscellaneous Details**

When doing the equipments design of the Project Leviathan, I will make weapons and abilities balanced. That is, there are no absolute “good” weapon or abilities in this game.

I will consider to add the magazine size for weapons or the power slot for abilities, because this would bring players another new strategy; that is, you could give others a decent weapon but with only few bullets left, so that they could use the bullets up in the Safari mode.

The group will be shuffled randomly. In this case, players will not have any permanent group mates; so be careful of making a super powerful group mate that turns his back to you in the end.

## 2.2 Genre

Science Fantasy Online Battle Royale Top-down Shooter Game

## 2.3 Hooks

* The 3-D and cartoonish graphical style with bright colors gives players massive visual impact.
* Using symphony/electronic music as BGM motivates players performance.
* Two different modes (Arena/Safari) in the game will give players amazing experience/strategy.
* Players can either focus on playing as a competitive game or play with the storyline behind each character they made.
* There are character selections that players can choose not only the class of their characters, but also the sex and appearance of them.

## 2.4 Gameplay Highlights

* Each game has two modes, Safari mode and Arena mode, switching back and forth constantly.
* Whoever stands till the last is the winner.
* All team members’ lives are connected by a red line, as the team members may change randomly during the game.
* Players would have 3 seconds waiting for others to rescue them before death.
* Players would be able to create and train their avatars.
* The trade system would allow players to give out their abilities or weaponsto other players immediately in the game to help them out.
* There will be a lot of interactive objects in the map that players can use to get advantages.
* The well designed map will ensure players can always find the right barrier to hide from the bullets.

## 2.5 Online Highlights

* Eight players with similar game performance will be placed together by the online matching system.
* Store players’ game data online includes their avatars data, levels, equipment and battle statistics.
* The social system allows players to share their game hit moment and look up their and others’ profile.
* The difficulty of enemies will be modified by performance of players in real-time.
* The community system allows players to compete with other community and to get advantages.
* The micro-transaction system allows players to buy dresses for their avatars.

## 2.6 Technology Highlights

* The requirement of the graphic card is lower than Nvidia GTX 970 or AMD RX 970.
* It will be fully compatible to all current generation game consoles, which includes PS4, Xbox One, and Nintendo Switch
* It will support Nintendo Switch’s “Play Anywhere”. (i.e. play locally with your friends)
* It will use Cel-shading rendering technique on all 3D models and maps.
* The controller is completely supported and recommended.

## 2.7 Art and Audio Highlights

* The map and characters are developed with 3D Modeling and viewed with a top-down perspective.
* The game will use Cel-shading (cartoon rendering) technique in the oil painting style. The art style refers to both map of League of Legend and characters of HellDivers.
* Players will lose themselves in the vivid background art and audio interactions.
* The background music will be more epic when it comes to the final battle with fewer players.
* The character that the player controls will mumble the story of its race in his own language while he is discovering the map.
* The entire background story will be revealed gradually with all the small pieces of bonus scenes and audio put up together.

## 2.8 Hardware

* Steam

Potentially:

* PS4
* XBOX ONE
* Nintendo Switch

# 3. Production Details

## 3.1 Current Status

* Controller Settings
  + Using controllers is recommended
  + Left Joystick: MOVE
  + Right Joystick: AIM
  + Right Trigger Button: SHOOT
* Team Settings
  + 2 teams; each team has 4 players when the game starts
  + Team members will be shuffled constantly
  + In Safari(PVE) mode, play as team; in Arena(PVP) mode, play as individual
* Difficulty and Timing

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Each Game: 10 Minutes** | |
| **First 5 minutes -ish** | **Last 5 minutes -ish** |
| **Most** players are alive | **Few** players are alive |
| No players have nice equipment | They should have nice equipment |
| PVE mode is **easy** | PVE mode is **hard** |
| Chance to get nice equipment |  |

* Battle System
  + Short Range Weapon / Long Range Weapon / Melee
  + No Fog of War; A lot of barriers
  + Radar system can unveil other player's’ position in a short delay
  + The connected red line between you and others could be disappeared for few milliseconds by doing a complex input. In this way, you could potentially avoid getting killed with others.
* Stage of Death
  + When the life bar goes down to zero, the player will enter the knockdown stage
  + After 3 seconds in the knockdown stage, the player will die
* Ability Settings
  + Two types of abilities: Strike and Support
  + Players could put any abilities in these two slots
  + Players could only use Strike in the Arena Mode; Support in the Safari Mode
* Map Settings
  + Many interactive items
  + Map will not be too large; we want to avoid players spending time looking for each other
* What Is Learned from the game - HellDivers
  + They used StingRay(AutoDesk) game engine
  + They designed it to be hard-core

## 3.2 Development Team

Producer: Zhaoyuan Sun

Document Team: Zezhi Xia

Song Luo

Background Story Designer: Weimu Song

Character Designer: Yuqi Zhou

# 4. Competition

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| HellDivers | |
| Development Team | Arrowhead Game Studio |
| Publisher | Sony Computer Entertainment (SCE) |
| Platform | Playstation 4  Playstation 3  Playstation Vita  MS Windows (Steam) |
| Key Features | * Teammates can be helped up if downed, healed if injured, resupplied if out of ammo. * A SOS beacon could be set to invite other players to join a game in progress. |
| Differences  (What’s better in our game) | * Making two modes in one game will make our game more strategic while the Helldivers just need to plan how to fight against NPCs. * The graphical style will be more cartoonish and smooth while the Helldivers makes player dizzy sometimes. * Helldivers: RPG / Our Game: MOBA |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PlayerUnknown’s Battlegrounds | |
| Development Team | Bluehole |
| Publisher | Bluehole (Steam)  Microsoft Studios (Xbox One) |
| Platform | MS Windows (Steam)  Xbox One |
| Key Features | * The safe zone in the map decreases over the game. * The last player who is standing is the winner. * Nearly 100 players play in the same map simultaneously. |
| Differences  (What’s better in our game) | * Our game is less time consuming, you can easily pick up a game whenever you have 10 minutes of free time. * Players will get to experience different modes in just one single game. * Even it’s less time consuming, but the players get to think more strategies in one game. In a fast pace game like this you will consistently feel the pleasure of it. * With top-down perspective we provide better graphic quality but less storage space and computer hardware required. |

# 5. Game World

## 5.1 Background Story

“No one knows when it has started, and no one questions it. It was just there, decades after decades.” (1:1 The Gospel of Genesis)

The planet, Otherworld, has existed for endless years. Countless glory civilizations were born on this land, yet countless glory civilizations were devastated by their arrogance and underestimation of the power of the history. Yet, their descendants learned to live out of those failures and were willing to appreciate the advancement of other unknown entity. With their touch with the visitor of their planet - the Outsider, an age of the splendid mix of the outer space technology and ancient magic was harvested, carrying the blessing and hopes of all the people.

The Kingfest is the most ancient activity in this land. No one knows the date it was started, and no one questions it. It was just there, decades after decades. Every four years, it’s hosted by a miserable power bloc called “Congress.” At the beginning of the Kingfest, the last king will retire to the Congress and become one of the hosts. Then, eight people from all around the world will be chosen by the hosts and gathered together. Their only aim is to risk their life to fight for the “Title of the King” in a giant arena at the center of this land - Leviathan. “Whom the winner is the King” - this one simple rule, carved on an old tablet in Leviathan, has witnessed countless Kings though more defeaters. These eight chosen ones will need to work together and form alliances in the most severe environment, beating the challenging enemies. Yet, these chosen ones might not want to count all on the “allies” they just made, because they never know when their allies will turn their back. Finally, only the person who has experienced despair and hope deserves can wield the invincible power from the “Title of the King”.

No one dares to know more about the Congress. They just know the Congress is a very old organization, maybe appeared with the Kingfest. During the Kingfest, only one man of the Congress will show up and hold the event. He always wears a strange mask and a black cloak. No one knows who he truly is. But no one ever doubt about the necessity and importance of the Kingfest. Because they know only the person who hold the Title of the King can stabilize the peace of this world and use this power to deter other forces in the universe to come.

## 5.2 The Truth Behind the Story (Only Development Team Knows)

The Title of the King is not only a power or the representation of peace, but it grows by eating the power of its holder. Every Kingfest, Congress announced that the old king became one of them, but it’s actually not. Every old king was dead, because of the Title of the King consume all their power. The Kingfest is actually a way to help Congress choose the most powerful man in the world to feed the Title of the King. The final objective of Congress is to gain enough power from the Title of the King to live forever and conquer the whole universe.

## 5.3 The Races

**Human**: Human has the largest population in the world. They almost built all the civilizations in the history. During the Colonist war, humans won the war with their large populations, advanced industry and magic research.

**Oni**: One of the most ancient races in the world. They were born with red skin and horns. Most of them live among the mountains in the east area of the world.

**Outsider**: Outsiders came to Otherworld during the Colonist War. Although they failed their war, they were attracted by the power of the Title of the King and chose to stay in Otherworld. The outer space technology they brought pushed the development of Otherworld.

## 5.4 Other Details of the Worldview

**Leviathan:**

A giant arena located at the center of the world. During the festival, thousands of people will come to Leviathan and watch Kingfest. Its battle stage is varied and changed constantly because of the magic field around it.

**The Title of the King:**

Once the contract between The Title of the Kind and its holder has made, its holder formally becomes to its container. Then, it becomes to a mark on its holder’s hand with the power of all old kings. Only the person who has experienced despair and hope can hold this power. Its power was used to seal the dark beast under Otherworld and deter other forces in the universe.

**The Colonist War:**

A war happened five hundred years ago. The only war in the closest one thousand years. The Colonist War was caused by the Outsiders. They attacked Otherworld with a large fleet and try to take the Title of the King. Their ambitions was defeated by the native people in Otherworld. The emperor of Outsiders was killed by the winner of the Kingfest of that year.

## 5.5 Main Characters In the Colonist War

**The legendary champion:** Arclight of knights - Nazu

Nazu was born in a poor family, but with his talent, even grown-ups could not fight equally with him when he was only 12 years old. However, because of the lack of education and experience, Nazu spent days and nights fighting and robbing.

One day, however, when Nazu was 15 years old, he met a young man wearing fancy clothes. Nazu drew his knife and sprinted to get close to the young man. Instead of astonishing, the young man smiled, and drew his sword. For the first time, Nazu lost, without any chance or power to beat back. Surprisingly, the young man did not execute Nazu with his beautiful sword, which is “legal” when a nobility does this to a rabble. He was impressed by the power and confidence of this wolf-like boy.

“Wanna go with me?”

Nazu was waiting for the execution. However, what he saw was not the sword, but a extending hand. At the same time, a bunch of light penetrated the clouds and lighted the bodies of the two young men. This must be fate, Nazu thought, extending his hand.

The young man was the prince of the country, and he would become the king in the future. Since that day, studying and training together became Nazu and the prince’s daily life. About one year later, Nazu learned all the skills for combatting and the prince could no longer fight against Nazu any more. And Nazu became much more optimistic and educated. This happy life lasted for five years.

One day, while training, Nazu discovered that the prince was acting weird. It was apparent that the prince was a little bit sad and could not focus on the training. Nazu acquired for the reason. The prince did not want to tell Nazu at first, but he gave the reason at last.

It was the time for a new competition to determine the next hero to inherit the title of the king. Eight warriors would fight at a place for glory and power. This year, however, there was not enough volunteers. The reason is that, the warriors would fight each other until only one person is alive. In another word, the participants would either die or obtain the title of the king. However, in both way, the participants would not return to their home any more. Since there were not enough volunteers this year, the prince should become one of them, and then he would not return or inherit the king of the country.

Hearing that, Nazu made his decision without hesitation. He stabbed his sword into the ground, kneeled on one knee, “I will become the last volunteer.”

“No...no no no. I won’t allow you to sacrifice yourself to…”

“You changed my life, my lord. I would have become a murderer and sent into prison if I did not met you on that day. I will swear my sword to protect you and fight for the glory and power, prince.” The prince at first did not agree with Nazu, but gave up and let Nazu become the last warrior at last.

The day arrived. Nazu went aboard and left without turning back even once.

Two days later, they arrived at the place, where was a beautiful place but filled with the smell of blood. All the participants were skilled. Some of them used magic while the others had extremely strong bodies. They were from different countries, of different races, but had the same purpose -- to survive until the end and to inherit the “Title of the King”. Fought with the magic horse given by the prince and his legendary gun (which was titled legendary after the competition) , Nazu defeated all the rest seven heros. The last battle was between the Revenger-Aoji and Nazu. They fought for a whole day, and finally Nazu pierced his edge into this prince in the past who was revived by hate and despair.

“I will die, but the revenge never stops...” saying his last words, Aoji’s body scattered and disappeared into dusts.

Nazu became the champion and obtained the title of the king.

The moment after Nazu was given the powerful media -- the Title of the king, hundreds of floating ships appeared in the sky. The invade by the outsiders started. They owned surpass technology and wanted to occupied Otherworld by force.

“Let’s try this.” Nazu said.

What happened since the next second is recorded in all historical documents and story books written after.

Fusing the Title of the king and his own gun, Nazu created this most powerful weapon in the universe -- stars’ devastator.

Smiling, Nazu pressed the trigger.

A bunch of light sliced the enemies’ armada, and left the sky with the brightness that lasted for months.

“What should we call it? It doesn’t matter! No one wants to trigger that again, even those who want to obtain the ultimate power. It just makes everything gone, nothing left, nothing!” said the greatest weapon master in the history.

**Other seven heroes:**

**Human:**

The revenger -- Aoji: He was a prince in the past, but was assassinated by his enemy. He was revived to revenge for himself. However, he fell into darkness and killing became his own aim. He was good at arrow and sword. His own weapons were able to absorb others’ life force.

The earth-shaker -- Weikon: Weikon’s race was famous for power and their strong bodies. Weikon was born just like his clansmen, or even more powerful. He is good at handling heavy weapons like hammer and axe. In the legend, he was able to shake the ground with his legendary hammer.

The element terminator -- Mistily: Before the battle, Mistily was widely known as a witch who could control all the elements and create miracles. Her staff was told to be alive and could not be used by others who are not acknowledged by it.

The library of human’s intelligence -- Biotheca: Biotheca knew all the knowledge about the world except for the secret of the title of the king. She was not good at battling. but was able to use her knowledge and intelligence to defeat monsters. She also died of her kindness, and was killed by Aoji.

**Oni:**

The terror of the darkness -- Akuma: Born from the fear and despair of human lived in the east, Akuma “lived” from the negative feelings of human. It could create fear of people from nothing, and absorb their life force. It could also become invisible and kill people from behind, with his sickle.

The blade of blood moon -- Akaya: No one knew what she or he looked like, except for Nazu, because nobody else kept alive after seeing it. There was a rumor that Akaya was a short girl with short hair and small horns. She had red eyes, with the same color as the blood moon, a myth in the east. No one knows if it is true. However, Akaya’s weapon is well-known. It was said to be the lightest and fiercest knife in the world.

The cold memory -- Yuki: No one remembered her. A common communication among parents and children is “Mom, do you know who the eight warriors of the legendary battle were?” “Well… I can only come up with seven now, babe.” Those who still remember her, however, treat her as one of the largest threat and fear. “She can easily appear behind you and turn you into ice. Even if you stay alive fortunately, you will forget what happened to you.” Actually, someone thinks she is still alive even today.

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