Player, Key, Door, Switch

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Code

Project: Develop a basic interaction system where the player can interact with various objects with different states and behaviours (feel free to complicate this as much as you would like).

Example: Collect a key, open a door, and turn on a light inside with a switch.

Deliverables:

- A video of the demo
- A description of the systems and mechanics created

Design / Narrative

Project: Design a narrative-driven puzzle sequence where the player must collect a key, open a mysterious door, and turn on a light to reveal a hidden story. The focus should be on developing a meaningful backstory, player choices, and environmental cues to immerse the player in the experience.

Deliverables:

- A text or Voice-over of the story
- Any supporting imagery / level design

Marketing / Production

Project: Design a marketing and promotional campaign that builds anticipation for "The Forgotten Room," the narrative-driven puzzle game where players collect clues, unlock a mysterious door, and uncover a hidden story. Focus on identifying the target audience, creating a narrative based marketing strategy / production plan.

Deliverables:

- A document and supporting imagery covering:
- A Pre-Launch Campaign
- Development plan with constant media sharing deadlines (early access)
- A Community Engagement Strategy

QA (...ish)

Project: Develop a comprehensive test plan to ensure the key collection, door unlocking, and light-switching mechanics in the "Forgotten Room" puzzle game are as expected. Focus on validating the player's abilities.

Deliverables:

- Create a list of core gameplay features to test
- Include specific steps and expected outcomes for each test case
- Negative Testing (Can the player turn on the light switch if they haven't unlocked the door?)
- Document potential pain points in the gameplay flow

MindMap

-Minimalist games Personal Guilt and the descent into madnessinterests Rhythm games The sacrifice of oneself or loved ones Topics Social impact Trust, gullibility, and obedience Psychological horror Constraints The ethics of choices Themes Manipulating switches across different timelines The fragility of reality and/or the mind or realities to alter the quantum state of the key Humanity's tendency to follow orders unquestioningly-Deciphering the correct sequence for activating switches to progress An earie house or room Interacting with a sentient key or switch (talk, Mechanics A test chamber or escape roomnegotiate, intimidate, etc.) Settings A surrealist world with overlapping realities-Remembering the sequence of switch presses or states to replicate them later The infinite void of space Coordinating the activation of switches within The player character or a companion is the key specific time windows The door was always open-Twists The door hides something dreadful done by the player character Inspiration The Stanley Parable

Story-driven games

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Design/Narrative



The (Cake) Door is a Lie

A satirical puzzle game that humorously critiques blind obedience, challenging players to question their choices as they solve absurd puzzles for a key to an already open door.

Core Mechanics

- Switch-based puzzles that escalate in complexity.
- Optional goal completion without the key, highlighting player choice.
- Narrator interventions that challenge the player's decisions.

Key Features

- Two potential settings:
 - Top-Down Space Game: Navigate laser fields and hazards.
 - Test Chamber: Solve abstract puzzles in a Portal-like environment.
- Sarcastic narrator offering commentary and escalating challenges.

Themes

 Player agency, blind obedience, and absurdism

Inspiration

The Stanley Parable, Portal

Pyrrhic

An emotional puzzle-adventure where reality fractures, and the bond with a beloved companion leads to a devastating sacrifice to restore balance.

Core Mechanics

- Surreal puzzles involving switches, keys, and doors.
- Companion-assisted gameplay with unique interactions and abilities.
- A climactic sacrifice mechanic that ties directly into the story.

Key Features

- A surreal, dreamlike world that dynamically changes with progress.
- Emotional storytelling centered on the playercompanion bond.
- Thought-provoking themes of sacrifice and the fragility of reality.

Themes

 The ethics of choice, the fragility of reality, and emotional sacrifice

Inspiration

 Planetfall, Rime, The Last Guardian Design / Narrative

Five Candles



Five Candles

A psychological horror game where players navigate a looping 2D room, solving puzzles to uncover a haunting truth while balancing escalating tension and the threat of failure.

Core Mechanics

- Iterative gameplay with escalating difficulty.
- Object interaction puzzles tied to subtle environmental cues.
- Success reveals story fragments; failure triggers randomized scares.

Key Features

- Static 2D room with evolving environmental storytelling.
- Emotional and atmospheric tension through audio-visual changes.
- Replayability driven by randomized failure events and scares.

Themes

 Guilt, memory, and the cyclical nature of punishment.

Inspiration

• P.T., Amnesia, Layers of Fear

Premise

Setting:

A single, dimly lit room where subtle, eerie changes unfold over time.

Gameplay Loop:

• Introduction: A photo slides under the door, but no one is there.

• Progression:

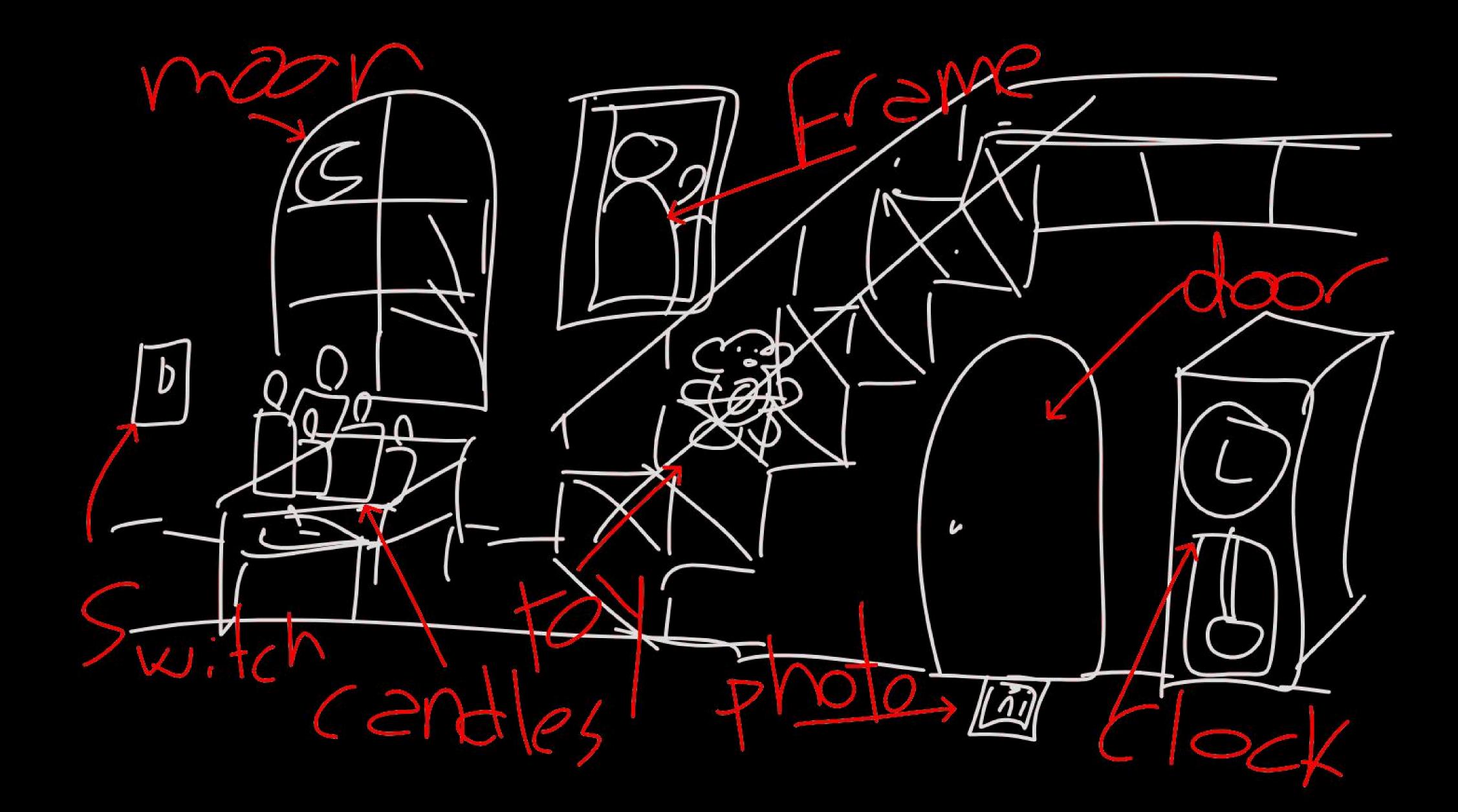
- Discover the correct sequence of interactions to advance.
- Clues scattered around the room provide subtle guidance.
- Each success reveals a darker photo, unlocks new interactions, and deepens the unsettling ambiance.
- The moon rises higher in the sky; five iterations lead to victory.

• Failure:

- Lights a candle, marking a mistake.
- Five failures trigger a jump scare and reset the loop.

• Ending:

 Victory reveals the horrifying truth: the player character has murdered their family and hidden the bodies behind the door.



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Code



Code

Infinite Houses

A casual looping game where players interact with the environment within a specific time frame.

Game Modes:

- **Switches and Keys:** Players activate a switch to make a key appear, then interact with the key. The time available for each round decreases progressively.
- Click da House: Players rapidly click on the house representing the next round. The time available for each round decreases progressively.
- THE RIDE NEVER ENDS: Houses loop... forever.
- Random: Each round presents a random mechanic (switch/ key, click, or auto) and a randomized time frame.
- **Custom:** Players customize game settings, including round mechanics and time limits.



itch.io: https://ragart.itch.io/infinite-houses

GitHub: https://github.com/ragart/thu-pkds-infinite_houses