Gaming the System

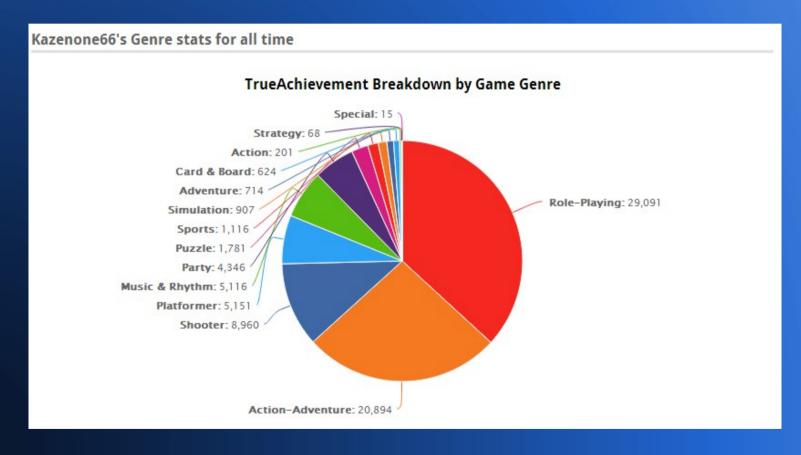
Thomas Kelly





Gaming the System





Gamification

"The application of typical elements of game playing to other areas of activity, typically as an online marketing technique to encourage engagement with a product or service."

Oxford English Dictionary

Internal Motivation

- Score
- Leaderboards
- Achievements
- Challenges
- Plot

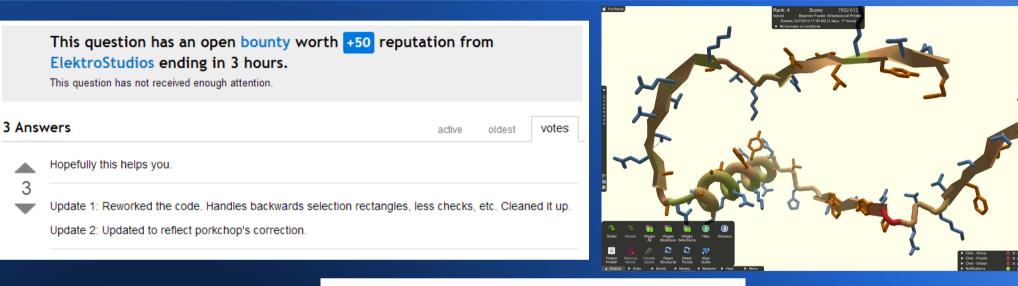


External Motivation

- Unlockable Content
- Experience Points
- Level Up
- Failure Mechanics

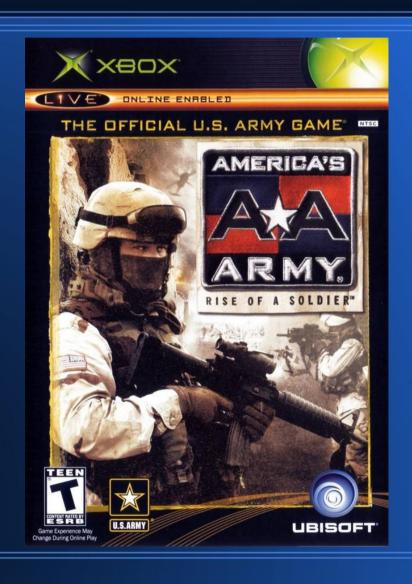


Gamifying the World





America's Army



The Continuous Integration Game

- Breaking the build (-10)
- Breaking a broken build (0)
- Build with no test failures (+1)
- New test failures (-1 each)
- New passing tests (+1 each)

github.com/jenkinsci/ci-game-plugin

When it doesn't work

- Meaningless rewards
- Difficult Gameplay
- Choosing the wrong metric

Gaming the System

"When a measure becomes a target, it ceases to become a good measure."

Goodhardt's Law

"The more any quantitative indicator is used for social decision-making, the more subject it will be to corruption pressures, and the more apt it will be to distort and corrupt the social processes it is intended to monitor"

Campbell's Law

The Magic Bullet

Summary

- Gamification is hard to get right
- If done right, is highly rewarding
- Don't make anything too important depend on it
- Focus on Collaboration and Competition, not Badges and Points

Questions?

Slides: github.com/tpkelly/gaming-the-system

Gamifying Education

- New Grading System
- Experience Points and Levels
- Bonus Achievements
- Mini-games

Gamifying Education

- The Multiplayer Classroom
 - Lee Sheldon
- Extra Credits:
 - youtube.com/watch? v=MuDLw1zIc94

