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Professor Pierce

CS 369

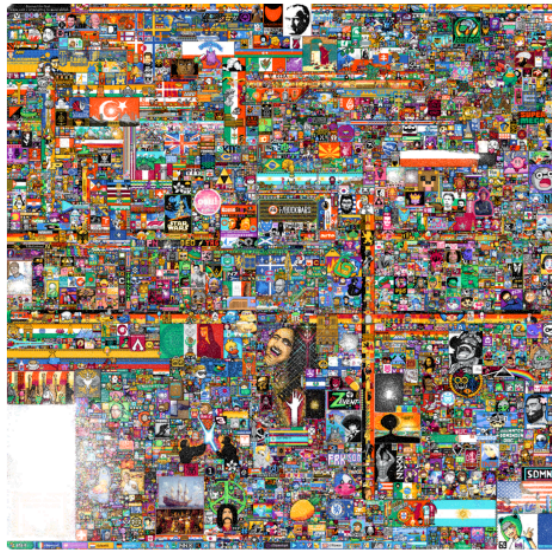
10 February 2025

## Largest Single Color Squares

In this analysis we seek to find the largest single color square in the r/place 2022 dataset. During r/place 2022, the canvas served as a battleground where users placed one pixel every few minutes on an initially blank canvas. Throughout the event different online communities create artwork and destroy others' artwork to expand their own. As r/place was coming to an end people typically try to preserve their artwork till the last second in order to solidify their placement on the final canvas. This time around an event called the “whiteout” took place wiping out almost all pieces of art.

In analyzing the data and finding the largest single color square, the top 20 largest squares all come from the same part of the canvas. These squares are located at the origin of the “whiteout” event, a chaotic moment in the final hour of r/place when users across reddit began covering the entire canvas in white pixels. The whiteout began in the lower-left corner of the canvas, a highly contested area of the canvas throughout r/place. The exact coordinates of the largest single color were topleft: (1, 1622) and bottom right (293, 1914).

Canvas Snapshot at 2022-04-04 22:52:00



The next largest single color squares all reside within or near this area. The whiteout movement popped up in other areas of the map afterwards, but almost always connected to the initial area creating a web-like structure of white.

Canvas Snapshot at 2022-04-04 23:15:00



Many users were easily able to contribute to this movement due to its simplicity in placing white pixels everywhere. The whiteout movement's success can also be

attributed to gaining more users contributing to their efforts as communities gave up trying to protect their art, and joined the whiteout movement in their efforts to cover the rest of the canvas. This cascading effect converted larger areas of the canvas to white until the whole canvas was close to blank.

The largest single color square in r/place 2022 was not the result of a community trying to create a single color square, but a result of users starting the whiteout, which started as a rectangle, after it fully covered its first art piece which was rectangular shaped. This last minute movement signifies all online communities coming together on a united front, showing what r/place is all about: Collaboration.

Canvas Snapshot at 2022-04-04 23:59:00

