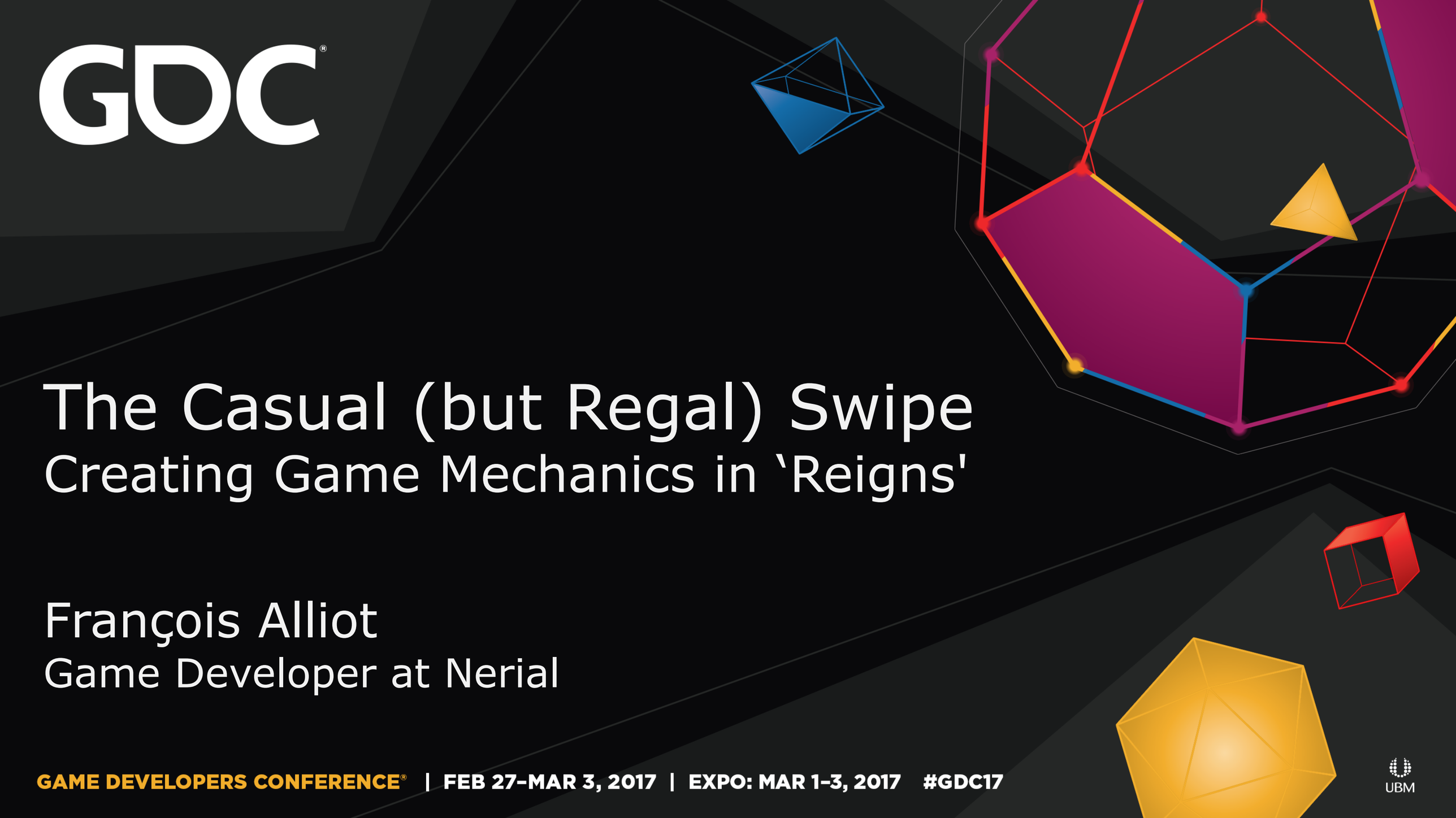


The Casual (but Regal) Swipe
Creating Game Mechanics in 'Reigns'

François Alliot
Game Developer at Nerial

GAME DEVELOPERS CONFERENCE® | FEB 27–MAR 3, 2017 | EXPO: MAR 1–3, 2017 #GDC17

UBM

REIGNS

My King! I am pregnant! I will give you a son, as it is my duty!
Queen Joan
Edward
773
10 years in power

The Treachery of Images, René Magritte, 1928 (text says « This is not a pipe »).

Laziness, Félix Vallotton, 1896

1/
Scribbling Reigns

Untitled crabbelinge, Peter Rubens

4 july 763
We need a Cathedral!
-40
-5
+10
80
80
10
240
5400

Ledoliel, Devine Lu Linvega, 2015

Royals, Asher Vollmer, 2015

4 july 763
We need a Cathedral!
-40
-5
+10
80
80
10
240
5400

You're governing like a loser.
Pardon me?
Guybrosh Loosetongue
William
725
12 years in power

2/
Writing Reigns

Kaamelott, Alexandre Astier

evocative writing

comedy and rhythm

probabilistic-driven narrative

evocative writing

Breakfast Table with Blackberry Pie, Willem Claeszoon Heda, 1631

We discovered an unknown body in the dungeon. Its hands are missing. Shall we reinforce the garrison?
General Coventon
James
666
0 years in power

comedy and rhythm

An earthquake destroyed a large part of the capital! The City Guard awaits your orders.
Lady Grey
Robert
607
4 years in power

We... may have a problem. A monk has started to bite his brothers... And it's spreading fast.

Father Quill

William 681

0 years in power

Werewolves... I don't think so, no... You should call that "cruel lack of physical activity".

Wulfa

William 681

0 years in power

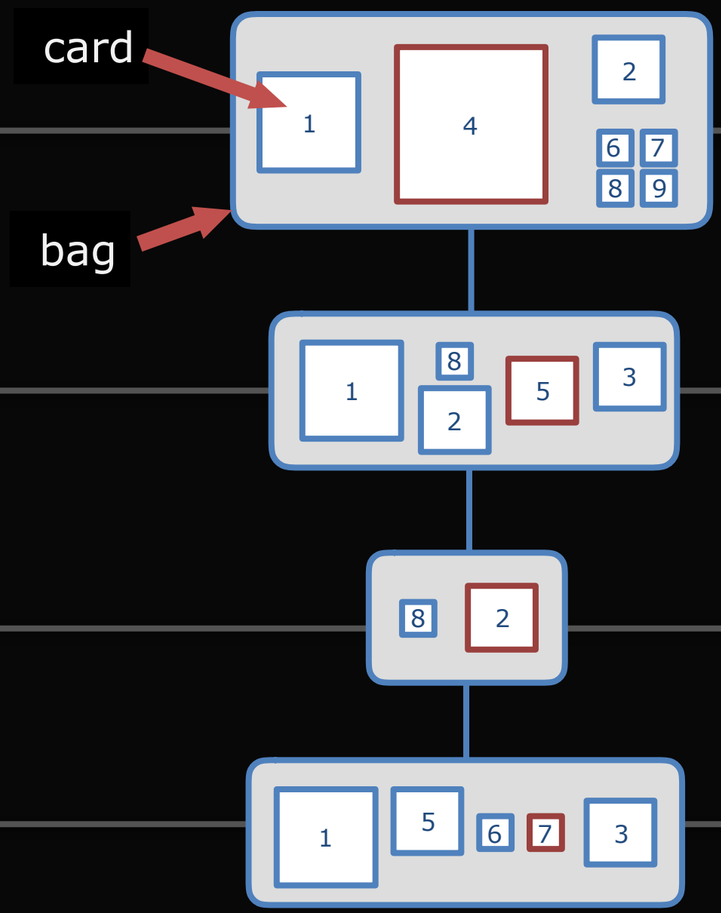
You eat so much that you end up choking. Everyone is drunk so your death is only noticed the following morning.

Baudouin the Peacemaker 694

11 years in power

probabilistic-driven narrative

probabilistic-driven narrative vs branching-path narrative

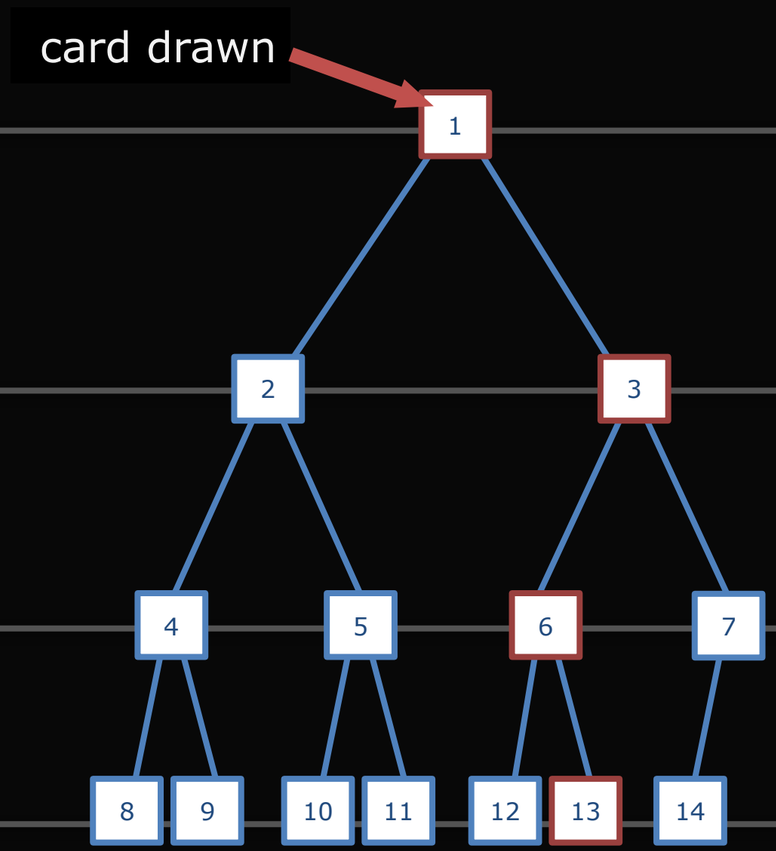


draw 1

draw 2

draw 3

draw 4



My Lord, you can't stop the trade! Please reconsider, even if it means paying a new tax.

card	id	bearer	conditions	ckturn	weight	question	override_yes	answer_yes	yes_spiritual	yes_military	demography	yes_treasure	yes_custom	override_no	answer_no	_spiritual	_military	demography	_treasure	no_custom
hygiene	484	doctor		120	8	My King, it seems your army has very poor hygiene. We should spend a bit on this problem.				15	5	-10					-15	-5		
_hidden_room	485	doctor				There's nothing wrong with this room. I have to conduct my experiments somewhere!	At least be discreet			5	10			Not anymore		10	-5	-10		!alchemy_keep
other_research	486	doctor		120	8	I would like to conduct new research on weapons and warfare. Will you help?				20	-5	-15	isStrong				-15	5		
alchemy	487	doctor	!alchemy_keep	120	10	I would like to conduct new research on the fabled transmutation of lead into gold. Could you finance me?			-10			-15	alchemy_keep			10				
alchemy_discover	488	doctor	alchemy_keep	160	15	While doing my research I designed a rather clever way to distil alcohol. I would like to share the revenue.			-10	-5	-5	30				10				
hiddenroomrumor	489	anyone		120	8	I heard strange noises in the castle last night. We should have more guards patrolling!				-10	5	-5						-5		
alchemy_fail	490	doctor	alchemy_keep	60	10	My research is not working... should I carry on?						-10				15				!alchemy_keep

card	id	bearer	onditions	ckturn	weight	question	answer_yes	yes_spiritual	yes_military	demography	yes_treasure	yes_custom	override_no	answer_no	_spiritual	_military	mography	_treasure	no_custom
hygiene	4	doctor		120		My King, it seems your army has very poor hygiene. We should spend a bit on this problem.			15	5	-10					-15	-5		
_hidden_room	4	doctor				There's nothing wrong with this room. I have to conduct my experiments somewhere!			5	10			Not anymore		10	-5	-10		!alchemy_keep
other_research	4	doctor		120		I would like to conduct new research on weapons and warfare. Will you help?			20	-5	-15	isStrong				-15	5		
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card	id	bearer	conditions	lockturn	weight	estion	overrid e_yes	answer_ yes	yes_ spi rit ual	yes_ mil ita ry	de mo gr ap hy	yes_t rea su re	yes_custo m	overrid e_n o	answer _no	_s pi rit ua l	_ mi lit ar y	m og ra ph y	_t re as ur e	no_custom
hygiene	484	doctor		120	8	King, it seems your army has y poor hygiene. We should spend t on this problem.				15	5	-10					-15	-5		
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				120	8															
				60	10															

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			alchemy_keep																	

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alchemy_fail	490	doctor	alchemy_keep	60	10	My research is not working... should I carry on?						-10			10				
																	-5		

3/
Breaking Reigns

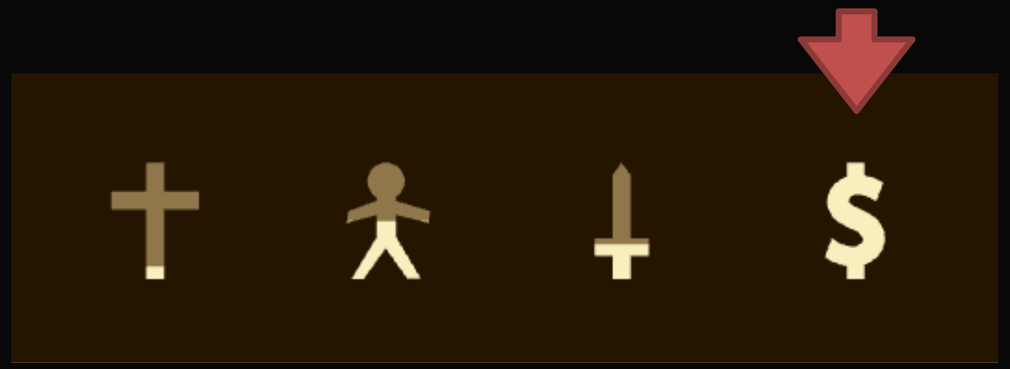
Street art, Anonymous

the party

the dungeon

the devil

the party



You eat so much that you end up choking. Everyone is drunk so your death is only noticed the following morning.
Baudouin the Peacemaker
694
11 years in power

the dungeon

The walls are dark and sooty.
Use Fire door
Caves of Doom
William the Creepy
762
4 years in power

card	id	bearer	conditions	kturn	weight	question	override_yes	answer_yes	s_spiritual	s_military	mography	s_treasure	yes_custom	override_no	answer_no	spiritual	military	ography	reasure	no_custom
enterthedonjon	607	anyone	!intheDungeon	200	5	We discovered the entrance of a crypt under the castle!	I'm going in!		?20	?20	?20	?20	>_dungeon1 and intheDungeon and !spice_trade_keep							
_dungeon1	609	end>dead_king_dungeon	spiritual=0 and military=0 and demography=0 and treasure=0		max	Did you find your way out of the dungeon? Maybe, but your power is no more and a new King is on the rise.	What...							What...						
_dungeon1	610	dungeon>air_arsenic		4	12	The air is lighter but smells of sickness.	Use Air door						>_exit_closed	Use Arsenic door						>_dungeon1
_dungeon1	611	dungeon>neutre_feu	torch	4	12	The walls are dark and sooty.	Use Neutral door						>_dungeon1	Use Fire door						>_devil1

card	id	bearer	conditions	kturn	weight	question	override_yes	answer_yes	s_spiritual	s_military	mography	s_treasure	yes_custom	override_no	answer_no	pirital	military	ography	reasure	no_custom
enterthedonjon	607	anyone	!intheDungeon	200	5	We discovered the entrance of a crypt under the castle!	I'm going in!		?20	?20	?20	?20	>_dungeon1 intheDungeon and !spice_trade_keep							
_dungeon1	609	end>dead_king_dungeon	spiritual=0 and military=0 and demography=0 and treasure=0		max	Did you find your way out of the dungeon? Maybe, but your power is no more and a new King is on the rise.	What...							What...						
_dungeon1	610	dungeon>air_arsenic		4	12	The air is lighter but smells of sickness.	Use Air door						>_exit_closed	Use Arsenic door						>_dungeon1
_dungeon1	611	dungeon>neutre_feu	torch	4	12	The walls are dark and sooty.	Use Neutral door						>_dungeon1	Use Fire door						>_devil1

card	id	bearer	conditions	kturn	weight	question	override_yes	answer_yes	s_spiritual	s_military	mography	s_treasure	yes_custom	override_no	answer_no	spiritual	military	ography	reasure	no_custom
	07	anyone	!intheDungeon	200	5	We discovered the entrance of a crypt under the castle!	I'm going in!		?20	?20	?20	?20	>_dungeon1 and intheDungeon and !spice_trade_keep							
_dungeon1	09	end>dead_king_dungeon	spiritual=0 and military=0 and demography=0 and treasure=0		max	Did you find your way out of the dungeon? Maybe, but your power is no more and a new King is on the rise.	What...							What...						
_dungeon1	10	dungeon>air_arsenic		4	12	The air is lighter but smells of sickness.	Use Air door						>_exit_closed	Use Arsenic door						>_dungeon1
_dungeon1	11	dungeon>neutre_feu	torch	4	12	The walls are dark and sooty.	Use Neutral door						>_dungeon1	Use Fire door						>_devil1

card	id	bearer	conditions	kturn	weight	question	override_yes	answer_yes	s_spiritual	s_military	mography	s_treasure	yes_custom	override_no	answer_no	spiritual	military	ography	reasure	no_custom
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_dungeon1	609	end>dead_king_dungeon	spiritual=0 and military=0 and demography=0 and treasure=0		max	Did you find your way out of the dungeon? Maybe, but your power is no more and a new King is on the rise.	What...							What...						
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_dungeon1	611	dungeon>neutre_feu	torch	4	12	The walls are dark and sooty.	Use Neutral door						>_dungeon1	Use Fire						>_devil1

Would you like to play Red Dwarf My Lord? Let's start with a small bet, I don't want to ruin you.
Junius Loosetongue
Baudouin
741
4 years in power

My Lord, what about a bit of fencing? I'm a good teacher. Let's bet a bit of money.
En garde!
General Arnoulf of Dover
George the Father
703
8 years in power

the devil

Tantalus, Gioacchino Assereto, circa 1640

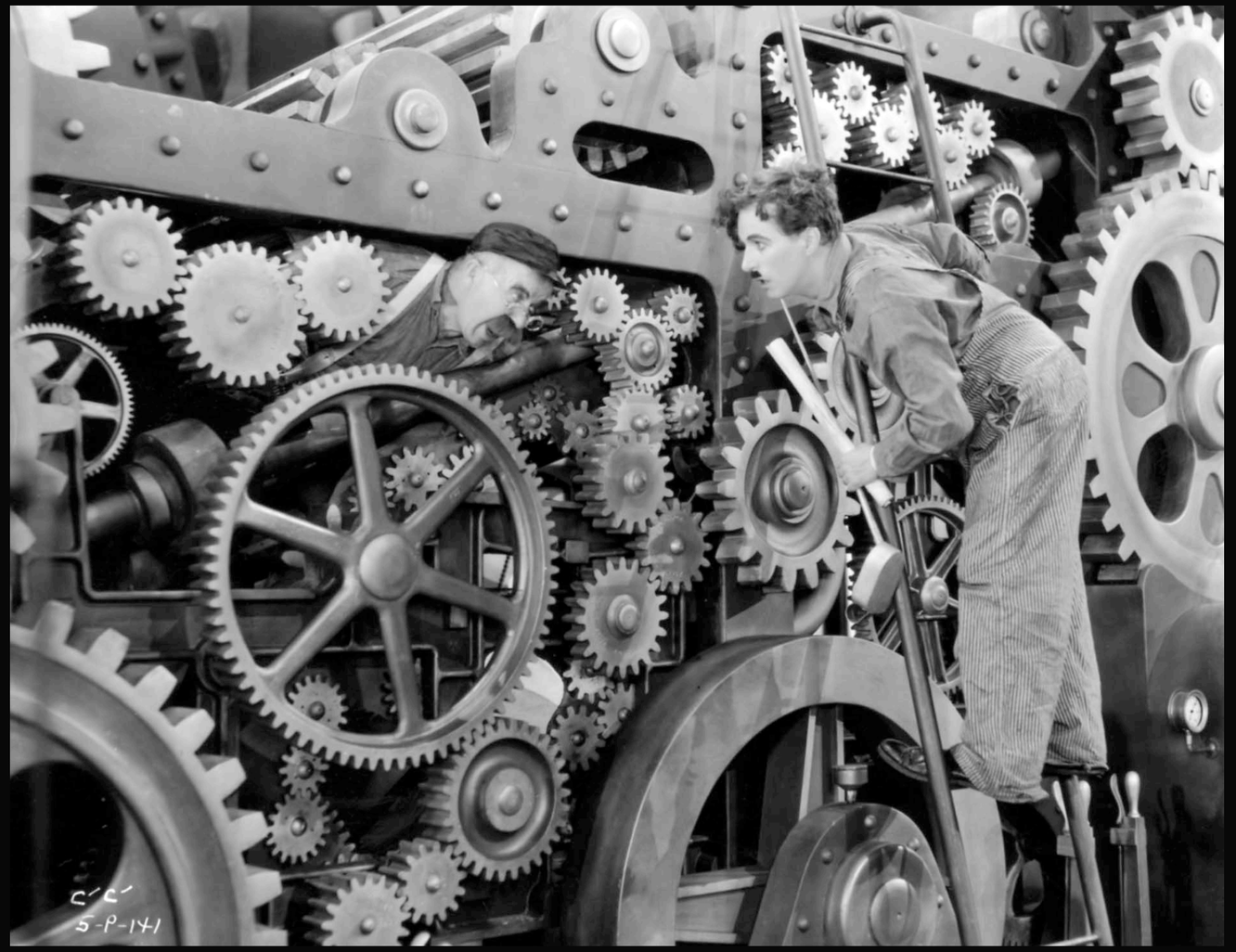
Rex moans in despair.
Something is not right.
Pat the dog
Rex
James
666
0 years in power

Little King, little puppet.
Rex
James
666
0 years in power

To conclude…

The Grey Tree, Piet Mondrian, 1912

Gamedev as an **exploration**
rather than the completion
of a system



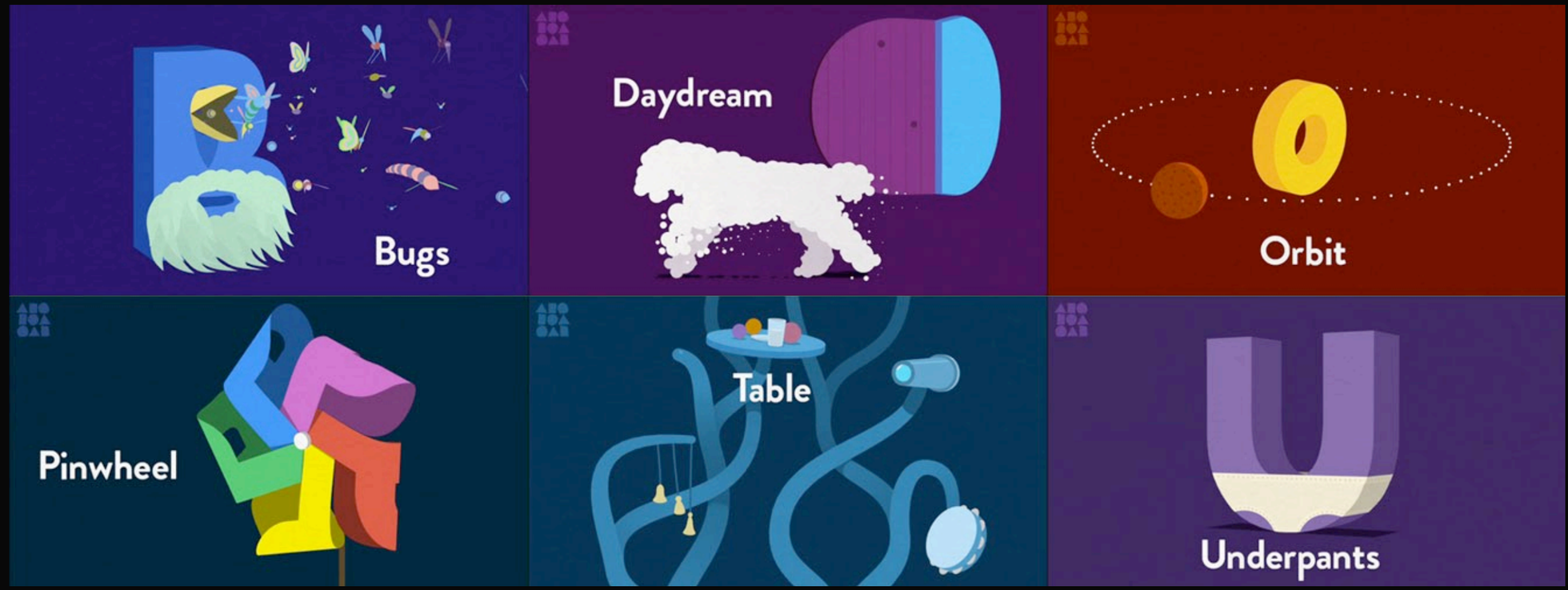
Modern Times, Charlie Chaplin, 1936

The Compleat Explorer, ?

Authorized map of the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition, Anonymous, 1934

Self-portrait with Eyes Wide Open, Rembrandt, 1630

Modern Times, Charlie Chaplin, 1936



Metamorphabet, Vectorpark, 2015

o/
Thank you!

NERIAL

François Alliot
@nerial f.alliot@gmail.com

Suggested question:
But, but, what is this?