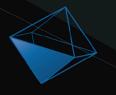
# GDC



SP vs MP Level Design: a Paradigm Shift

Elisabeth Beinke-Schwartz
Level Designer, Certain Affinity
@ebeinke









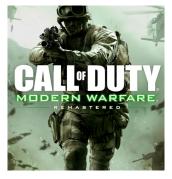
#### Who am I?























## What I Will Be Covering:







Designing SP Levels

Designing MP Levels

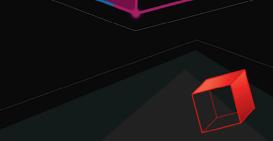








# Designing Layouts







# Planning Level Size











#### SP Level Size Considerations:

- # of combats + length/size
- Big narrative sets
- Traversal conversations
- Side quests/content





#### MP Level Size Considerations:

- # of players in a game + team sizes
- Intended time until engagement





### Framing/Composition











### Framing/Composition

| Main Focus in SP  | Main Focus in MP   |
|---|--|
| <ul><li>Storytelling</li><li>Gameplay-relevant objectives</li></ul> | <ul><li>Player paths/options</li><li>Tightening up sightlines/exploits</li></ul> |





## Composition: SP



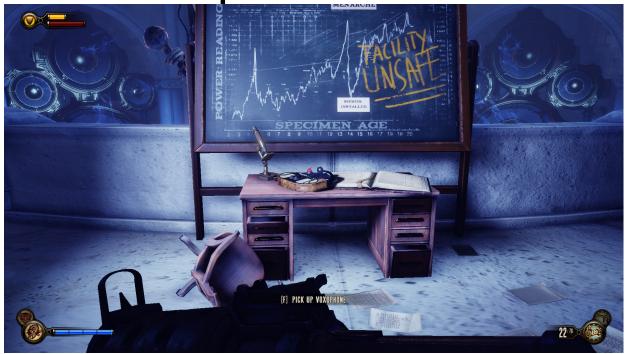








Composition: SP











#### SP use of "Weenies"





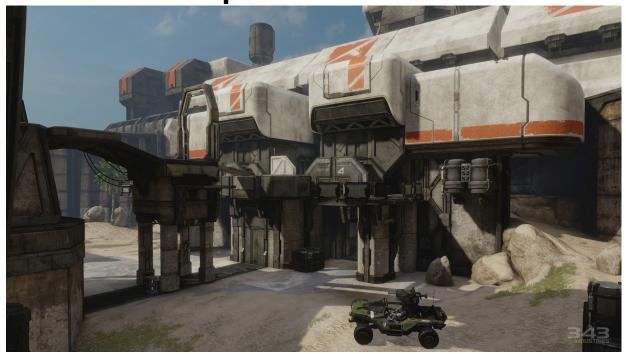








# Composition: MP





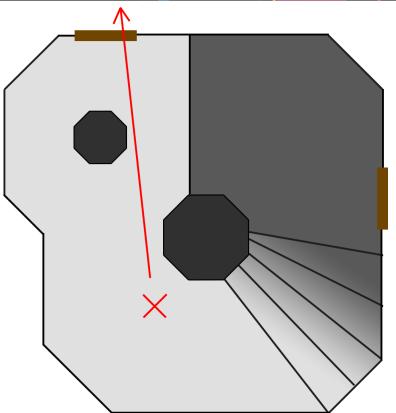






# Composition: MP

 Watch out for unintended sight lines.









#### Planning Optional/Advanced Routes









# Optional Routes: SP











### Optional Routes: SP









# Optional Routes: SP

• Will the AI play nice?













Optional Routes: MP











#### Pickup Considerations: SP











#### Pickup Considerations: MP











### **Exploit Considerations**

| Singleplayer   | Multiplayer   |
|--|---|
| <ul><li>Not super critical.</li><li>Low consequences</li><li>Sometimes can be fun!</li></ul> | <ul> <li>Critical to fix!!!</li> <li>High consequences</li> <li>Only fun for the individual, frustrating for others.</li> </ul> |

GDC

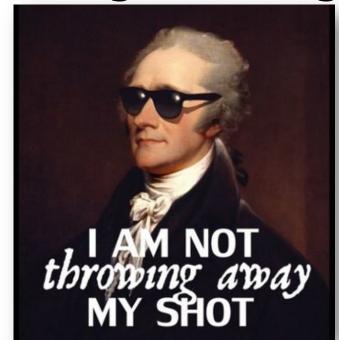
Playtesting







### Playtesting for Singleplayer



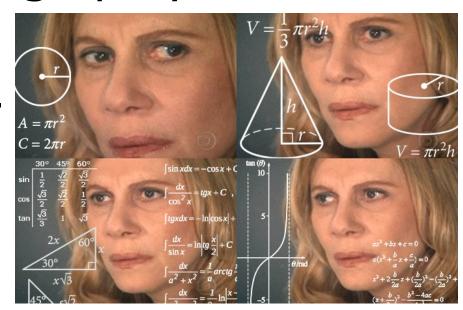






#### Playtesting for Singleplayer

- Players should:
  - Know their motivation.
  - Know where they are.











#### Playtesting for Multiplayer









Playtesting for Multiplayer

• First impressions aren't a big deal.











#### Summary: SP vs MP Priorities

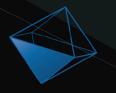
#### Singleplayer

- Sell the narrative
- Frame gameplay objectives
- Design optional routes for rewards + play styles.
- Playtest less, polish more in between.
- Exploits are low priority.

#### Multiplayer

- Narrative is low priority.
- Frame player routes/options
- Design routes for advanced players + play styles.
- Playtest often and repeat testers.
- Fix exploits/sightlines.





#### Thanks!

Elisabeth Beinke-Schwartz
Level Designer, Certain Affinity
@ebeinke
ebeinke@gmail.com

