Introduction to Gaming

Guest Lecture: Roger Smith, Ph.D. Chief Technology Officer US Army Simulation, Training & Instrumentation http://www.peostri.army.mil/CTO

M&S for Systems Engineering



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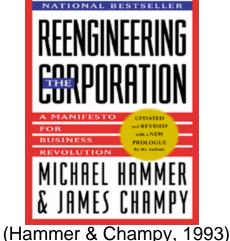
Why are we talking about games?

"Play is to the 21st century what steam was to the 19th century" - Power that can be harnessed for social and economic benefits.



The Enabling Role of New Technology





Georgia Tech "The power of the Xerox copier did not lie in its capability to replace carbon paper and other existing copying technologies, but in its ability to perform services beyond the reach of these technologies. The 914 [copier] created a market for convenience copies that had previously not existed."

This is the power of game technologies. They create or enable a new need and then satisfy it.



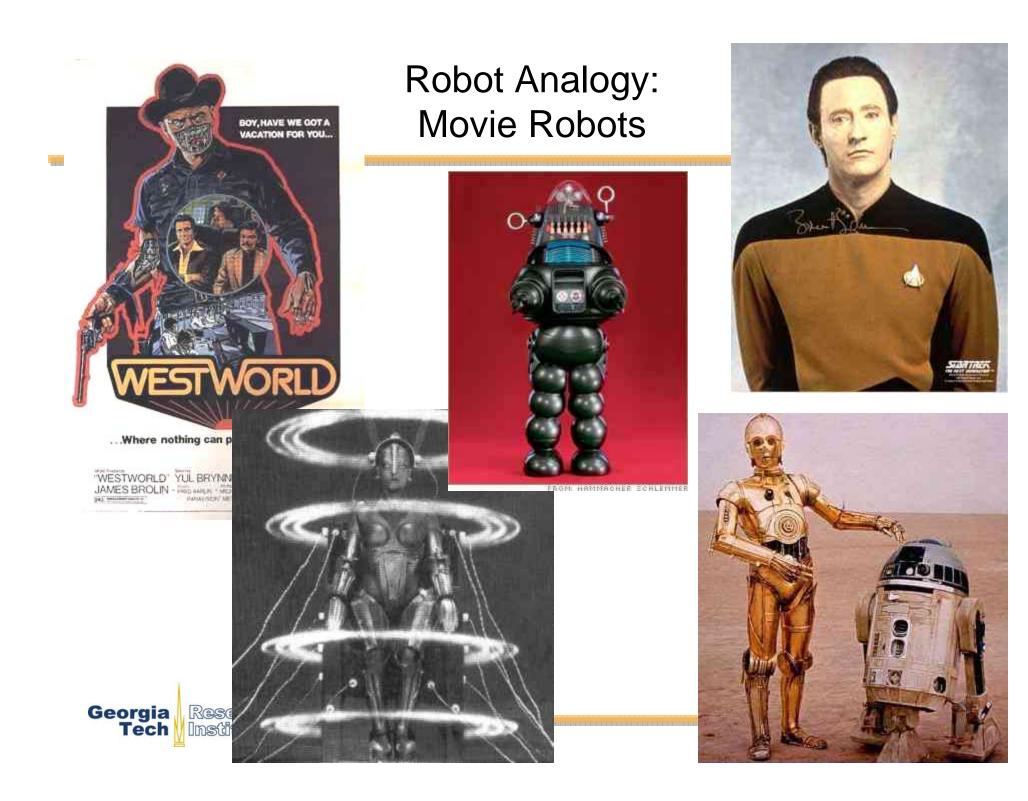
Your Games

• What games do you play or have you played?



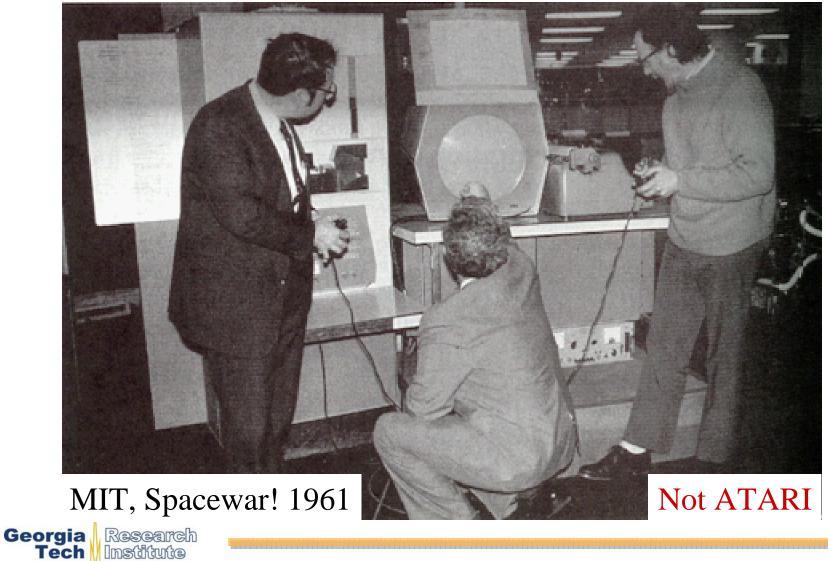
What are these games?







First Interactive Computer Game

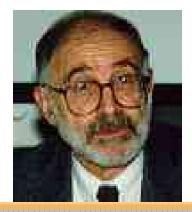


1970 Serious Games Definition

"Reduced to its formal essence, a game is an activity among two or more independent decision-makers seeking to achieve their objectives in some limiting context. A more conventional definition would say that a game is a context with rules among adversaries trying to win objectives.

"We are concerned with <u>serious games</u> in the sense that these games have an <u>explicit and carefully thought-out educational purpose</u> and are not intended to be played primarily for amusement."

Abt, C. (1970). Serious Games. New York: The Viking Press.





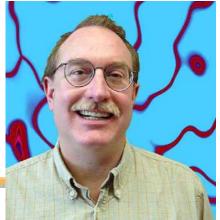
2005 Serious Games Definition

Game: "a physical or mental contest, played according to specific rules, with the <u>goal of amusing or rewarding</u> the participant."

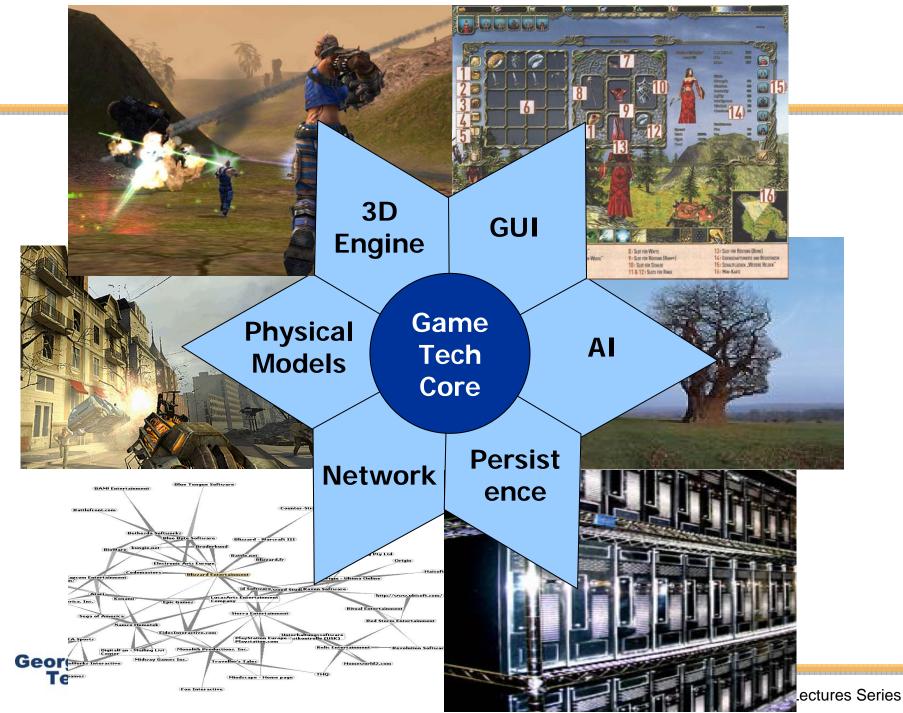
Video Game: "a mental contest, played <u>with a computer</u> according to certain rules for amusement, recreation, or winning a stake."

Serious Game: "a mental contest, played with a computer in accordance with specific rules that <u>uses entertainment to further government or corporate</u> <u>training</u>, education, health, public policy, and strategic communication objectives."

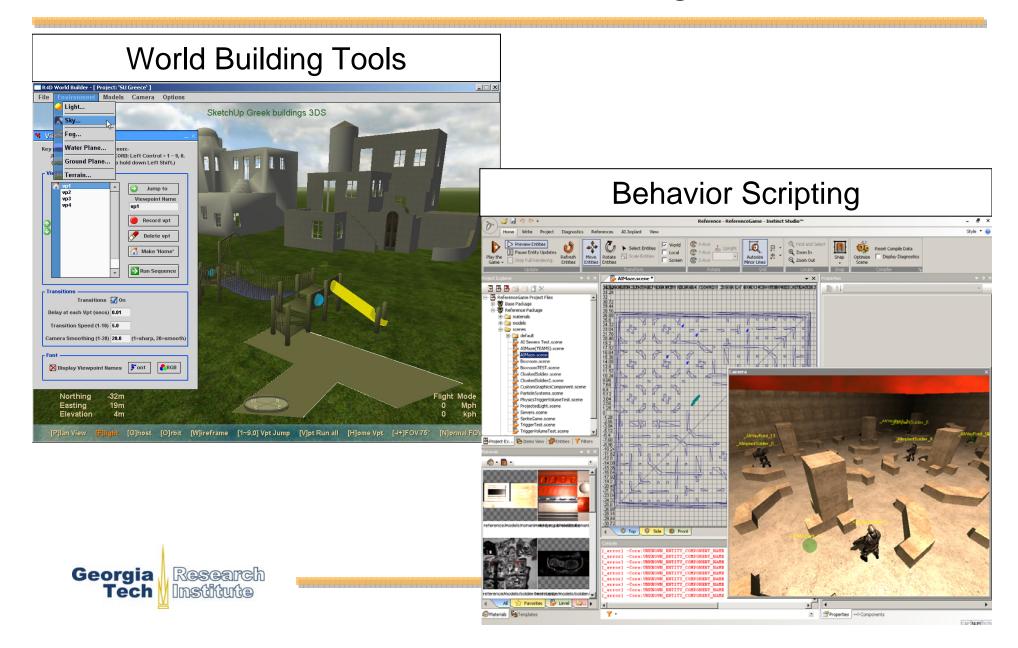
Zyda, M. (September 2005). "From visual simulation to virtual reality to games". *IEEE Computer*.



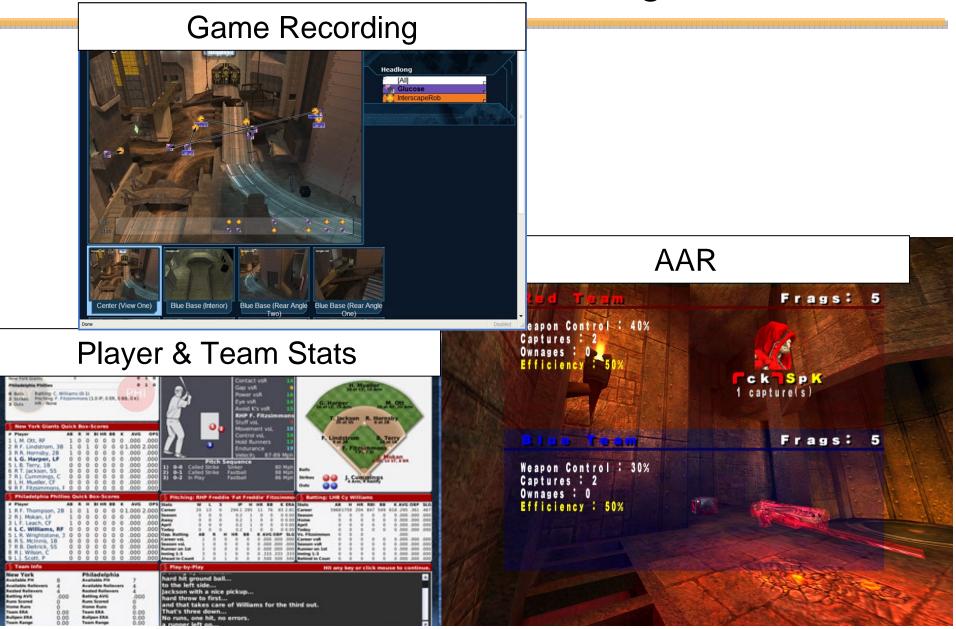




Pre-Game Technologies



Post-Game Technologies



The Long Tail

Local Markets

- Physical products, delivery, and stocking
- Requires concentration into the "Top 100" products.

Global Markets

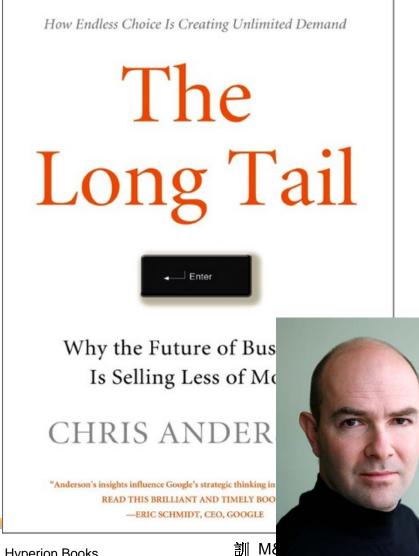
Georgia

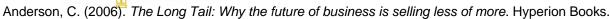
Tech

- Digital products, instant delivery, and free stocking
- Allows diversification into the "Top 100,000" products.

Research

Institute



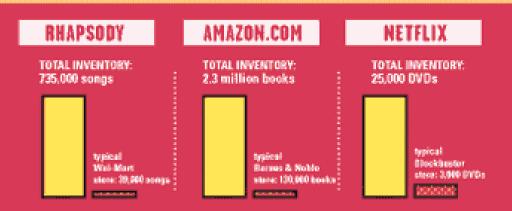


The Long Tail of Digital Music

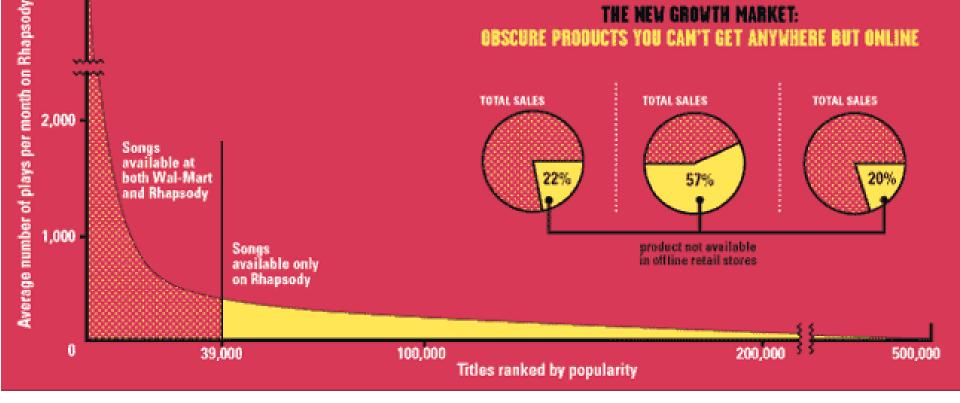
ANATOMY OF THE LONG TAIL

Online services carry far more inventory than traditional retailers. Rhapsody, for example, offers 19 times as many songs as Wal-Mart's stock of 39,000 tunes. The appetite for Rhapsody's more obscure tunes (charted below in yellow) makes up the so-called Long Tail. Meanwhile, even as consumers flock to mainstream books, music, and films (right), there is real demand for niche fare found only online.

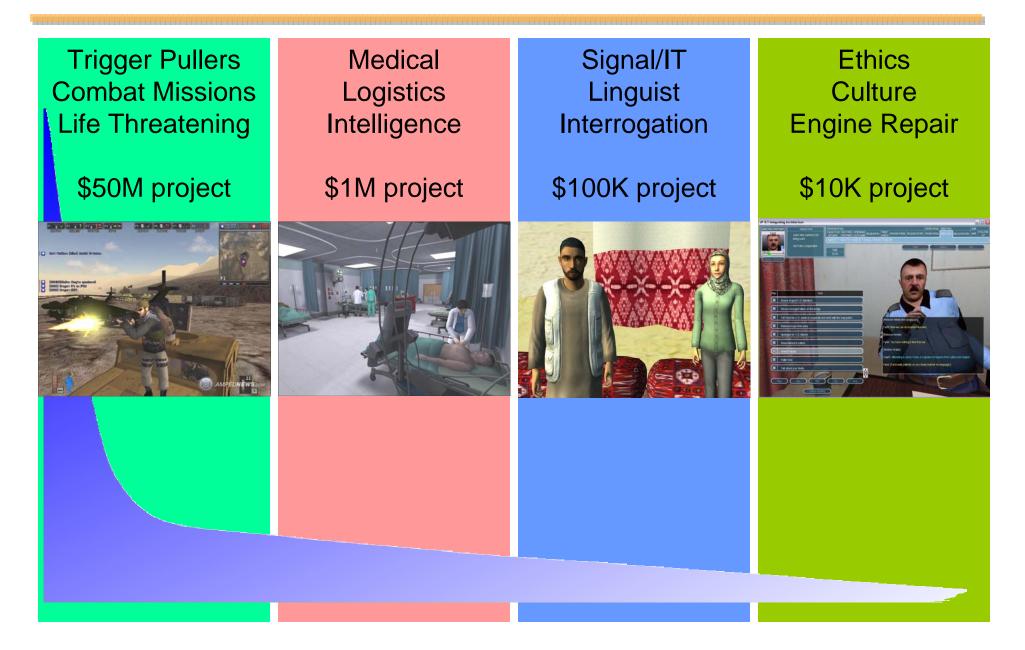
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THE NEW GROWTH MARKET: **OBSCURE PRODUCTS YOU CAN'T GET ANYWHERE BUT ONLINE**



Simulation's Long Tail

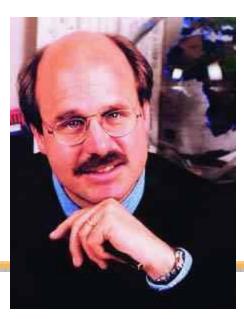


How Close is the Military Gaming Future?

"Silicon Valley is littered with the corpses of companies who mistook a clear view for a short distance.

"One of the secrets in my business is that everything changes slower than people imagine. Change only seems fast because people overlook the antecedents. Most ideas take 20 years to become overnight successes."

Paul Saffo. (July 16, 2007). "The Future Really is Now". ComputerWorld.





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