

# Serious Games Taxonomy

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# Games for Health 2008

Registration is now open!

[www.gamesforhealth.org](http://www.gamesforhealth.org)

May 8-9, 2008

Baltimore, MD

Pre-Conference Workshops : May 7

Virtual Worlds & Health

Games Accessibility Day

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# All Games are Serious

WORK IN PROGRESS

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# Overview

- Justification for Developing a Taxonomy
- Background Investigation & Related Taxonomy Work
- Serious Games Taxonomy Details
- Putting the Taxonomy to Work
- Next Steps

# Why Develop a Taxonomy? & Background Investigations...

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# Why Do We Need A Taxonomy?

- Get All Serious Games Parties on Same Page
- Erase Various Myths About Serious Games
- Provide Snapshot for Current State of Serious Games Industry
- Find Where R & D is Lacking
- Create Foundation for Future Efforts & Organizing

Work in Progress

Serious Games = Games for Learning or Training







# Other Names Being Used

- Educational Games
- Simulation
- Virtual Reality
- Alternative Purpose Games
- Edutainment
- Digital Game-Based Learning
- Immersive Learning Simulations
- Social Impact Games
- Persuasive Games
- Games for Change
- Games for Good
- Synthetic Learning Environments
- Game-Based “X”

# The Mistake...

*“Too Often Serious Games is Defined Only as That Which the Definer Does!”*

*- Sawyer, 2007*

*“Most Labels Define a Specific Output Ignoring The Larger Possibility Space For Serious Games. This Implies The Possibility Space for Serious Games Only Equals That Specific Label.”*

*- Smith & Sawyer February 2008*

# Pre-Cursors

Pre-cursor	Purpose & Comparative Advantage	Example(s)
Game-Based Simulation	1. Improve accessibility to simulation by merging in game approaches to visuals, interface, rules of play, and fidelity of model such that the impact of exposure to the simulation can be multiplied	Virtual U
Game-Based Model	1. Improve accessibility to model by merging in game approaches to visuals, interface, rules of play, and fidelity such that the impact of exposure to the model can be multiplied. 2. Draw upon techniques for modeling systems with little actual data that game developers excel at.	Bridge Build, Sims
Game-Based Visualization	1. Use visual technologies and techniques from games to create new forms of visualization and more accessible versions of visualization 2. Allow for higher levels of interactive visualization where user actions might affect resulting visualization	Holt Forestry
Game-Based Interface	1. Non standard but highly symbiotic interface design produced often for games applied to other applications. 2. Approach of making interaction with application “fun” using concepts from gaming (e.g. discovery, visual rewards, easter eggs, etc.) often associated with games 3. Re-skinning non-game software & software processes to established game interfaces/interface patterns	Doom Linux Seriousity CTVEE/DARPA
Game-Based Application	1. Any application which derives its output through gameplay 2. Applications which take on game-like interface/interaction qualities to accomplish tasks	“Funware”
Game-Based Authoring	1. Use of tools or game/game engines created for videogaming to output some other piece of media 2. The process of creating another tangible output as a result of gameplay or use of a videogame	Electroplankton
Game-Based Production	1. Use of tools or game/game engines created for videogaming to output some other piece of media 2. The process of creating another tangible output as a result of gameplay or use of a videogame	Machinima
Game-Based Messaging   Advertising   Marketing	1. Using games to transmit a message, advertise a product/service, market a product 2. Relating to people through association with videogames for purposes of marketing	
Game-Based Training	1. Add gameplay to enhance motivation to train, or effectiveness of content transfer, behavior change, or specific goal of training	Binary Game
Game-Based Education   Learning	1. Using gameplay to enhance motivation to learn, engage education, or to enhance effectiveness of content transfer or other specific learning outcome	

# Pre-Cursors

Pre-Cursors	Alternative Names	Popularity*
Game-Based Education	Game-Based Learning, Edutainment, Learning Games	10,943,370
Game-Based Production	Game-Based Authoring, Machinima	3,190,010
Game-Based Simulation	Game-Based Simulator, Simulation Game	2,480,860
Game-Based Messaging	Game-Based Advertising, Game-Based Marketing, Advergaming	470,620
Game-Based Training	Game-Based Trainer	12,390
Game-Based Application		8,630
Game-Based Visualization	Game Visualization	3,980
Game-Based Interface	Game Like Interface, Game-Based UI	3,500
Game-Based Model		3,380

\*Popularity Based on Number of Google Hits.

Ben Sawyer = 59,200 Peter Smith = 970,000

# Usage Models

Usage Model	Explanation	Example(s)
Tool Appropriation	Use of Game Production Tool for Production of Non-Game Content	Machinima
Hardware Appropriation	Use of Uniquely Game Hardware for Delivery of Other Service or Content Style	Folding@Home
Engine Appropriation	Use of Game Engine for Production of Non-Game Application	Holt Forestry Visualization
Game For X	Game with Non-Entertainment Goals As Most Desired Outcome	America's Army
Embedded Messaging and/or Action	Entertainment Games with Third-Party Embedded Non-Entertainment Messaging/Action Goals	SimCity Societies
Technology Appropriation	Derivative Hardware & Software Output Direct from Games	Network 3D Game Engines
Technique Appropriation	User Interface or Design Technique Appropriated from Games for Non-Game Purpose	"Fun Ware" : Applications with Game Like User Interface Properties
Talent Appropriation	Appropriation of Talent Due to Game Development Expertise for Non-game Application Need	Park Design by Keita Takahashi
Cultural Appropriation	Use of game cultural and visual cues as a means of reaching a particular gamer-oriented audience for branding & messaging	Volvo Commercial w/Rallisport Coca-Cola / World of Warcraft



# Concepts & Forces at Work

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# Games: 30+ Years of Evolutionary Design

Tens of Millions of Customers

Tens of Millions of GPUs

30+ Billion Revenues



Alternative Inputs

Global Culture

Major Multicore Platforms

Darwinian Business Environment

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# Serious Game Drivers

Research

Game Studies

Audience

Theories of Learning /  
Cognition

Commercial Gaming

Academia

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Technology  
Graphics / CHI

Social Networking/  
Collaboration

Traditional MS&V

Web 2.0

E-learning & Training

Industry

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# Market Segments

Enterprise	<b>Non-Entertainment Users</b>			Retail
<b>Instructors &amp; Utilizers</b>	E-Learning	Modeling & Simulation	Commercial Serious	<b>Game Developers</b>
	Education Software	Serious Games	Serious COTS	
	Game Marketing & Cultural Cues	Serious Stuff Gamers Do	Commercial Gaming	
Game Influenced	<b>Entertainment &amp; Gamers</b>			Actual Game

# Serious Usage Segments

		Gamers	Third Party	Developers	Technologies
		Serious Stuff Gamers Do	Instructor   Therapist   Mentor   Leader   Marketer	Commercial   Indie   Serious Software & Hardware	Middleware + Tool Vendors (hardware & software)
Serious COTS	<b>Reset Purpose</b>	Wii Exergaming	Curriculum Development	Teaching Guides & Support Forums	Machinima
	<b>Modify Software or Hardware</b>	CounterStrike	Revolution (Neverwinter Nights)	Non-Entertainment Modes of Play	PS3 Folding@Home
	<b>Augment</b>	Guitar Hero Sequencer Maps for WoW	Curriculum Development	PowerGrid SmartBrainGames	Linux on PS3
Serious Games	<b>Virgin Development</b>	XNA Creators Club   Indie Development	Use of Specialized Serious Games	Serious Game COTS & Specialized Serious Game Development	Microsoft ESP or Breakaway MOSBE

# Games = Simulation + Media

- Not local card game, board game night, D&D club from 1980's or that "role play" thing you did at office last week
- Games today means: SOFTWARE but with media conventions...
  - often a highly stylized
  - following specific expected conventions of its user-base
- Today's games are about:
  - Computation/Moore's Law & Networking/Metcalfe's Law
  - And Marshall McLuhan

# Simulation

Packet Tracer

Federal Budget Game

Virtual U

Bridge Builder

Simulation

Game

Governance & Model Conventions

Media Conventions

Sim City

Half-Life 2

MS Flight Simulator

Every Day Shooter

Game

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# Important Related Taxonomies

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# Misconceptions

- Game Misconceptions
  - Breadth of Game Design Patterns
  - Multiplayer
- Serious Games Misconceptions
  - Broad Outputs vs. Specific Outputs
  - Hardware as well as Software
  - COTs Representation
  - Applicability of More Obscure Design Patterns



# Additional Design & Engineering Patterns

Google Maps Games Interactive Fiction Systems



MUDs



SimCountry



Sensor Based Games



PBEM Clients



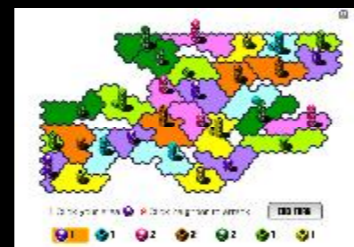
ARGs



Simple Augmented Reality



DiceWars



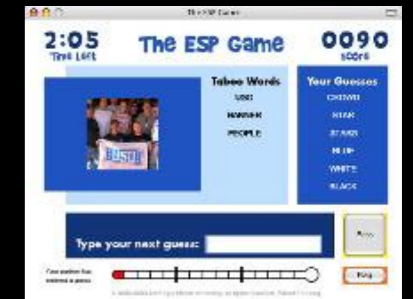
Runescape



Augmented Advanced Card Games



ESP Game/Crowd Sourcing



Audio Only Games



Ajax-Based Games



Habbo Hotel



Whyville



Webkinz / Neopets



Flickr Games



Passively Multiplayer



Fantasy Sports



Mass Balance



Dope Wars



Incident Commander



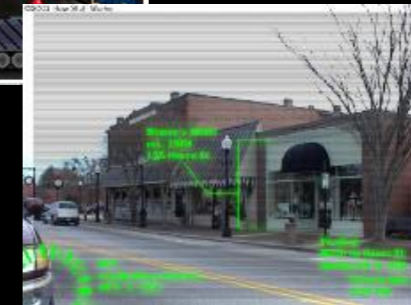
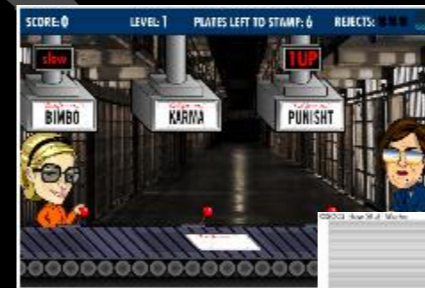
GeoLocation Games





# Additional Design & Engineering Patterns

Action	Story	Strategy
Hunting Dance/Rhythm EyeToy Party Exergaming	Dating Anime Adventures Interactive Fiction MUDs ARGs	Puzzle Games "3 in a Row" Brain Games
Serious Games		
Augmented Reality		
Ephemeral Games		



# Lesson:

*You can't have a serious  
Serious Games Taxonomy  
without developing a  
taxonomy of all games*

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# Multiplayer Taxonomy

	Multiplayer Opponents	Multiplayer Tournament	Massive Multiplayer (Shareded)	Massive Multiplayer (Grid)
<b>No. of Players</b>	1-4	8-64	1000-10,000	Everyone
<b>Server?</b>	Via Provider or P2P	Player Hosted Third Party Hosted	Provider Only	Provider Only
<b>Notes</b>	In classroom group games use this approach  Making History	Most FPS games fit this approach  America's Army	Most MMPs use this approach  Lunar Quest	Other MMPs use this approach  Second Life

Name	ARGs	Web MMP	Play By Email	Social Networks Games
<b>How Played</b>	Message Boards, Etc.	Turn Based	File Attached to Client	Social Network API Compliant Application
<b>Example</b>	World Without Oil	Sim Country	Scrabble	SmartyPants EA   Blueprint

# Hardware Re-appropriation

	Access to hardware	Robust API	Hardware Reuse
<b>Xbox 360</b>	Controllers + XNA Creators Club	XNA	Controller
<b>Playstation 3</b>	Linux Installable Controllers Browser	GCC OpenSource APIs	Controller System
<b>Wii</b>	Controllers & Web Browser	None	Controller
<b>DS</b>	Third Party Tools Browser	Unofficial	Homebrew Development + Browser
<b>PSP</b>	Browser Video Audio	Unofficial	Homebrew Development + Browser + Media Playback + Skype

# Taxonomy

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# Taxonomy of Serious Games

	Games for Health	Advergames	Games for Training	Games for Education	Games for Science and Research	Production	Games as Work
Government & NGO	Public Health Education & Mass Casualty Response	Political Games	Employee Training	Inform Public	Data Collection / Planning	Strategic & Policy Planning	Public Diplomacy, Opinion Research
Defense	Rehabilitation & Wellness	Recruitment & Propaganda	Soldier/Support Training	School House Education	Wargames / planning	War planning & weapons research	Command & Control
Healthcare	Cybertherapy / Exergaming	Public Health Policy & Social Awareness Campaigns	Training Games for Health Professionals	Games for Patient Education and Disease Management	Visualization & Epidemiology	Biotech manufacturing & design	Public Health Response Planning & Logistics
Marketing & Communications	Advertising Treatment	Advertising, marketing with games, product placement	Product Use	Product Information	Opinion Research	Machinima	Opinion Research
Education	Inform about diseases/risks	Social Issue Games	Train teachers / Train workforce skills	Learning	Computer Science & Recruitment	P2P Learning Constructivism Documentary?	Teaching Distance Learning
Corporate	Employee Health Information & Wellness	Customer Education & Awareness	Employee Training	Continuing Education & Certification	Advertising / visualization	Strategic Planning	Command & Control
Industry	Occupational Safety	Sales & Recruitment	Employee Training	Workforce Education	Process Optimization Simulation	Nano/Bio-tech Design	Command & Control



# Taxonomy of Serious Games

	Games for Health	Advergames	Games for Training	Games for Education	Games for Science and Research	Production	Games as Work
Government & NGO	Public Health Education & Mass Casualty Response	Political Games	Employee Training	Inform Public	Data Collection / Planning / Visualization	Strategic & Policy Planning	Public Diplomacy / Research
Defense	Combat Medicine Rehabilitation & Wellness	Recruitment & Messaging	Soldier/Support Training	School House Education	Wargames / planning	War planning & weapons research	Command & Control
Healthcare	Cybertherapy / Exergaming	Public Health Policy & Social Awareness Campaigns	Training Games for Health Professionals	Games for Patient Education and Disease Management	Visualization & Epidemiology	Biotech manufacturing & design (Folding@Home)	Public Health Response Planning & Logistics
Marketing & Communications	Advertising Treatment	Advertising, marketing with games, product placement	Product Use	Product Information	Opinion Research	Machinima	Opinion Research
Education	Fatworld Inform about diseases/risks	Social Issue Games	Train teachers / Train workforce	Learning	Computer Science & Recruitment	P2P Learning Constructivism Documentary?	Teaching Distance Learning
Corporate	Free Information & Wellbeing	Customer Education & Awareness	Employee Training	Continuing Education & Certification	Advertising / visualization	Strategic Planning	Command & Control
Industry	Occupational Safety	Sales & Recruitment	Employee Training	Workforce Education	Process Optimization Simulation	Nano/Bio-tech Design	Command & Control

# Games for Health Taxonomy

	<b>Personal</b>	<b>Professional Practice</b>	<b>Research / Academia</b>	<b>Public Health</b>
<b>Preventative</b>	Exergaming Stress	Patient Communication	Data Collection	Public Health Messaging
<b>Therapeutic</b>	Rehabitainment Disease Management	Pain Distraction CyberPsychology Disease Management	Virtual Humans	First Responders
<b>Assessment</b>	Self-Ranking	Measurement	Inducement	Interface/Visualization
<b>Educational</b>	First Aide Medical Information	Skills / Training	Recruitment	Management Sims
<b>Informatics</b>	PHR	EMR	Visualization	Epidemiology



# Advergaming

	Using Games				Game Association			
	Standalone Advergame	In Game Placement		Out of Game Placement		Games in Ads	Marketing with Games	
		Billboards	Integrated Gameplay	Outside Field of View	Interstitial		Event Marketing	Product Tie-In
Branding	Coke Studios	FIFA Soccer	Playboy the Mansion	Game Portals ie. Kongregate	Xbox Live	Coca Cola w/ Warcraft	EA Sports 500 at Talladega	Slusho Cloverfield Game
Product	Yaris Racing On Xbox Live	Massive In Game Product Placement	Axe Body Spray	Doritos Unlock the Xbox Design Contest	Old Spice Achievement on Xbox Live	Volvo w/ Rallisport	MTV Gamers Ball	Movie Licensed Games
Issue	Darfur Is Dying		Second Life Relay for Life	Free Rice				
Political	Take Back Illinois		Candidate Second Life Islands			Ping Time Labor Party Ad		
PSA	Catch The Sperm	Massive in Game Stay in School Ads				Teenage Mom Ad	Penny Arcade ESRB	
Recruitment	America's Army	British Intelligence Agency in Quake Wars		Military Recruitment Ads on Game Portals		US Army Gamer Targeted TV Ad	Army Game Experience	PS2 America's Army

# Games for Training

	Elementary Skills	Occupational Safety	Employee Health & Wellness	Orientation	Awareness	Communications	Skills
Informal	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task
	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive
Formal	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task
	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive

Adapted from Bureau of Labor Statistics : <http://www.bls.gov/ept/home.htm#training>

# Games for Training

	Elementary Skills	Occupational Safety	Employee Health & Wellness	Orientation	Awareness	Communications	Skills
Informal		U. Wisconsin Malaria Safety	DDR in Offices : Generation Fit	Persuasive Games Cold Stone Creamery			Cisco Binary Game
				America's Army			Rosser Surgery Skills w/Games
Formal				Persuasive Games Dominos Pizza	DOJ Ethics Game	Coast Guard : Shield of Freedom	Cisco Subnetting
		EtcEdutainment Alcoa SafeDock		Virtual U			Virtual Heroes Hilton Hotels

Adapted from Bureau of Labor Statistics : <http://www.bls.gov/ept/home.htm#training>



# Games for Training: Skills

	Management	Professional & Technical Skills	Computer Training	Clerical & Administrative	Sales & Customer Relations	Service Related Training	Production / Manufacturing / Construction
Informal	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task
	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive
Formal	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task	Single Task
	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive	Comprehensive

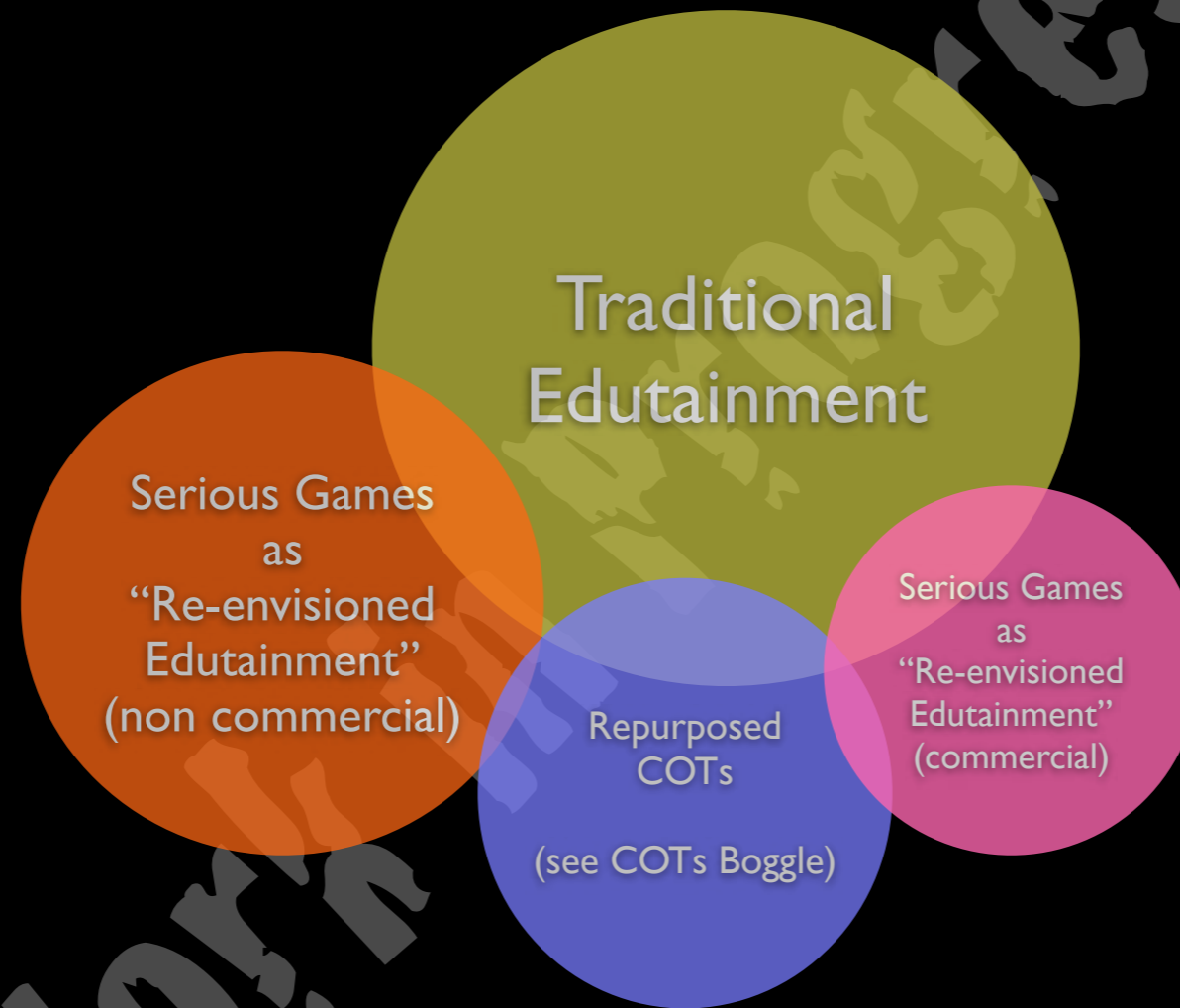
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# Games for Training: Skills

	Management	Professional & Technical Skills	Computer Training	Clerical & Administrative	Sales & Customer Relations	Service Related Training	Production / Manufacturing / Construction
Informal		Cisco Binary Game			Cold Stone Creamery		
	Team Training in Multiplayer Games						
Formal	Adaptive Thinking & Leadership	ACLS Legacy Interactive					
	Virtual Leader	Pulse!!			Best Buy Verizon	Hilton Hotels	

Adapted from Bureau of Labor Statistics : <http://www.bls.gov/ept/home.htm#training>

# Games for Education



# Games for Education

	General	Adult	University	High School	Middle School	Elementary	Pre-K
Informal	Driver Simulators	Flight Simulator	Flight Simulator	Civ4	Project Connect	Zoo Tycoon	PBS Kids
Formal	Cisco Binary Game		Virtual U	Making History	MIT/PBS Labyrinth	GameStar Mechanic	

- Serious Games as "Re-envisioned Edutainment" (non commercial)
- Serious Games as "Re-envisioned Edutainment" (commercial)
- Repurposed COTs
- Traditional Edutainment

# Games for Science and Research

	Data Collection	Data Visualization	Data Processing
Research	Player Tracking Statistics in Halo 3	GGNViz Forestry Game	Folding @ Home on PS3
Development	Google Image Labeler	Landing Lights Park in Second Life	Warhawk PS3 Dedicated Server Farm



# Games for Production

	<b>Game Generation</b>	<b>Media Mash-Ups</b>
<b>Audio</b>	Elektoplankton	Remixed Audio
<b>Graphics</b>	PGR Camera Mode	Unreal Art
<b>Video</b>	The Movies	Machinima

# Games as Work

	<b>Direct Earnings</b>	<b>Non-Earnings Reward</b>	<b>Opinion</b>	<b>Work to Play</b>	<b>Play to Work</b>
<b>Competitive</b>	Online Casinos/ Skills Gaming	Protest	Predictions Markets	ARGs	Professional Gamers
<b>Personal Reward</b>	Funds/Donation Reward	Exercise	Self Assessment	User Created Content	Game Escorts
<b>Group Oriented</b>	???	Public Diplomacy	Opinion Research	Guild/Clan Management	Seriousity/ Google Image Labeling
<b>Quasi Occupation</b>	Gold Farming / Character Leveling	Activism	???	???	Command & Control

# Games as Work II

	<b>Exercise</b>	<b>Grind, Rewards, &amp; Commerce</b>	<b>Management</b>	<b>Protest &amp; Activism</b>
<b>Casual</b>	Wii-Games	Level Up	Team Up with Friends	Sponsor or Support Virtual Event
<b>Personally Invested</b>	DDR	Purchase In-Game Items	Join Guild	Participate in Virtual Event
<b>Actively Engaged</b>	DDR Exercise Mode	Produce Income	Lead Guild	Organize Virtual Event

# Serious COTS I

	Education	Health	Production	Hardware
Entertainment Repurposed	Civ4 Revolution (Neverwinter Nights)	DDR PopCap Games EyeToy	The Movies 8-Bit Music	Wiimote Hacks
Non-Entertainment @ Outset	Making History & General Edutainment	Yourself Fitness BrainAge My Life Coach PowerGrid Fitness Wii Fit	Machinimation	Sony Folding@Home

# Serious COTS II

	<b>Straight Up</b>	<b>Changed Orientation of Game</b>	<b>Modded Software</b>	<b>Hardware Augmented</b>
<b>Individuals Initiated</b>	Yourself Fitness BrainAge LifeCoach	DDR Nascar 98	Half-Life Architecture	PowerGrid Fitness
<b>Third Party Prescribed</b>	Making History	Civ4	Revolution (Neverwinter Nights)	SmartBrainGames (Biofeedback)



# Commercial Serious

Teaching & Education	Cognitive Health	Visualization
Training & Skills	Exercise	Sports Pre-Viz
Production	Psychology	Architecture

# Serious Stuff Gamers Do

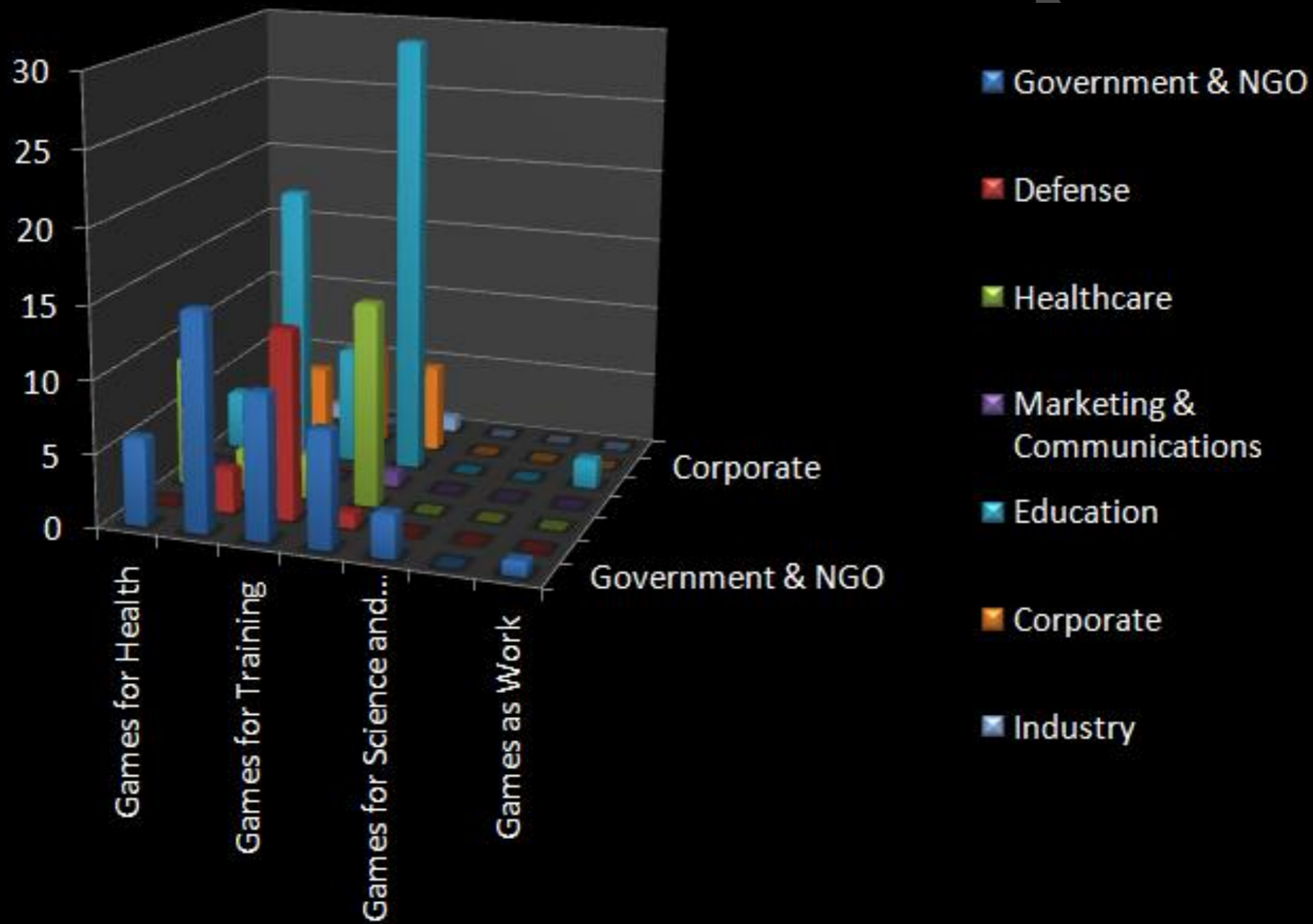
	Play	Work	Teach & Assist	Culture & Communication	Production
Level 1	Freeplay	Exercise	Themselves	Talk	Media & Art
Level 2	House Rules	Grind, Rewards, & Commerce	Aide Others	Events, Competitions, Conventions & Cosplay	Communities & Web Sites
Level 3	Mastery	Management	Instruction	Collecting	Stuff
Level 4	Competition	Protest & Activism	Materials	Comedy	Mods & Software

# Putting The Taxonomy to Work

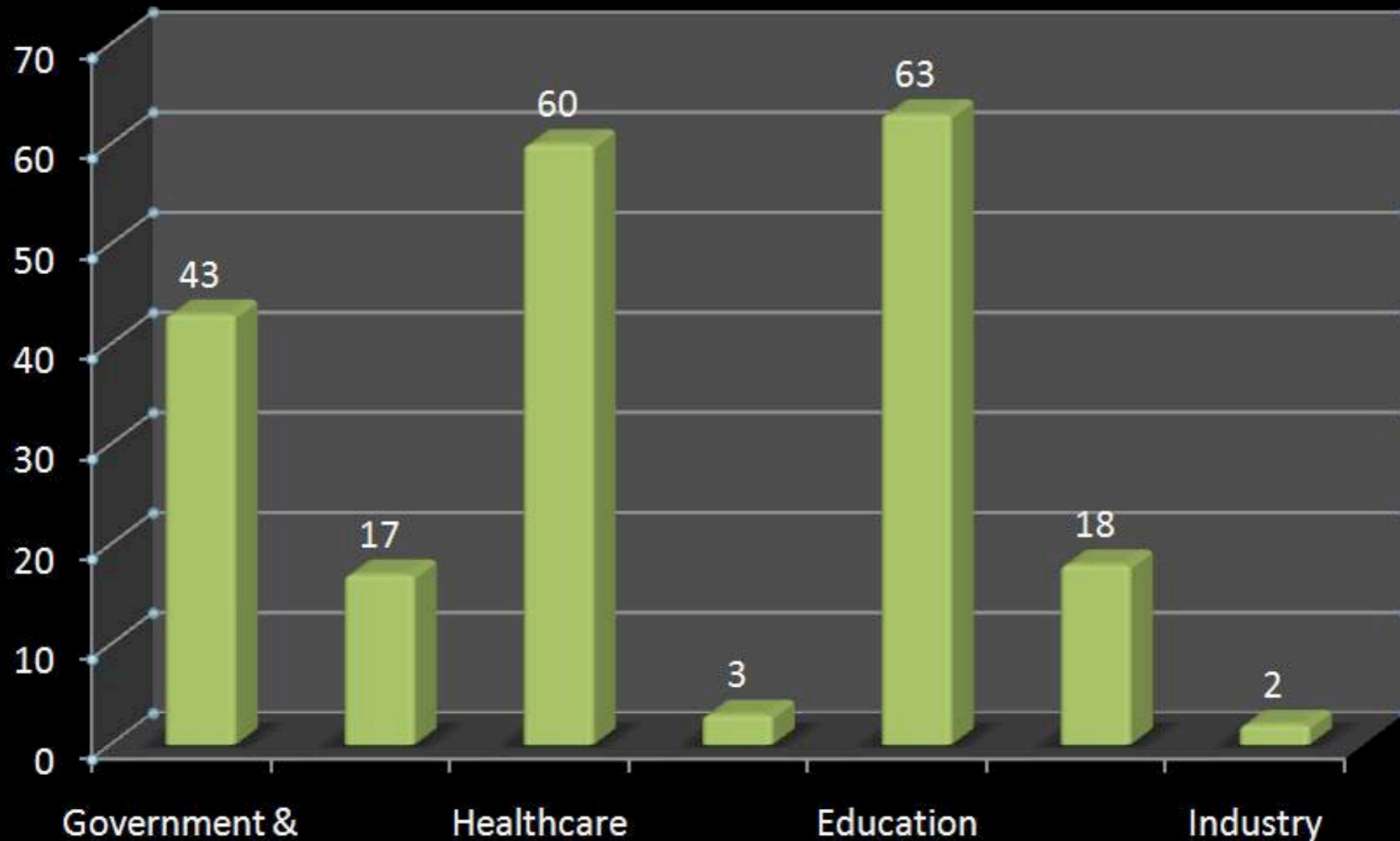
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# Projected Taxonomy



# Number of Games by Industry



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# Last Thoughts...

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# A Journey...

- Serious Games = Game Based Simulation
- Serious Games = Games for Government Foresight & Public Policy
- Serious Games = Broader Idea of What Games Can Be
- Serious Games = A Description for a Broader Reapplication of Videogame Resources
- Serious Games = A Broad but Better Defined Reapplication of Videogames

# Next Steps

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# Next Steps

- Use This Taxonomy as Starting Point To Define Serious Games Moving Forward
- Continued Discussion and Building Within the Community (Join the Mailing List)
- Taxonomy Will Be Available on a Wiki, Linked to On [seriousgames.org](http://seriousgames.org)
- Community Invited to Contribute to Serious Games Taxonomy 2.0

# Questions

- Please Fill Out Your Comment Cards
- If You Liked the Presentation Please Give Cards to People At the Door
- If You Did Not We Will Collect Those At the Front