Serving It Hot:

Breaking the Mould of Adult Games and Game Jams with 'Whipped and Steamy'



By Whales And Games • https://whalesandgames.com/ Game Dev Camp 2019





CONTENT WARNING

There is no explicit content in this talk, but we're still talking topics about sexuality and pornography, producing suggestive imagery and researching adult games. These topics can understandably be bothersome/uncomfortable for some.

If anything of the former makes you uncomfortable, or you feel such way during the talk, it's understandable if you feel the need to leave!



Who are we at Whales And Games?



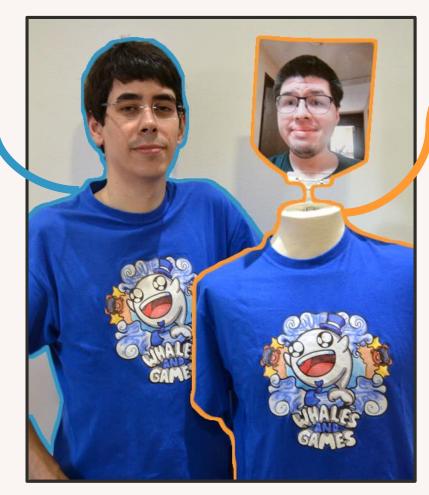




Somewhere in this room, there's two speakers:

Jorge Carvalho (JorgeGameDev)

- Co-Founder and Lead
 Developer of Whales And
 Games
- Making games since 10 years.
- Games And Apps
 Development in Universidade
 Europeia.
- Most likely to be JoJo-posing in pictures.



José Sanchez (MoskiDraws)

- Co-Founder and Lead Artist of Whales And Games
- Self-taught artist since 15 years ago.
- Master in Marketing in Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey.
- Enthusiast in drawing in Napkins and actually a real-person.

...also special thanks to Robin Couwenberg (RobinhoodPT), Leonardo Scur (Kroltan) and Henry Smith (Henforth)!







Two-year informal gamedev and creative studio.

Games and Art full of 'whaleistic personality'!





by Drauthius (@drauthius), published 10 months ago

hat was hilarious! Amazing polish and execution, and a fun take on the theme"



by **Sniperninja564** (@sniperninja564), published 2 years ago

that jewellery delivery. Very good game, can't wait to see any further developments:)

This is actually a masterpiece. Love the 4th wall break!

nes of personality you were able to squeeze in here (the flexing

I sort of wish there were a larger variety of unique contracts to take, though. I love the concept of setting your own difficulty level ala Bastion-style, but I wish I could have selected any of the contracts from the start, instead of seeing the unique-sounding ones

Regardless, though, I'm super impressed with what you guys have done here! This is easily one of the most polished games I've

This game is very cool and addicting. I made it to the end in 1800 years with 100 happines 50 wealth. I really love graphics, music is also very good. I didn't notice and bug, so your game is very polished. Great job!



TwistedHawkAdultGames Submitted 218 days ago (+2)

You did a lot in a short amount of time. Great job! The game is addicting at a lot of fun! It's like an adult ersion of the old classic Lemonade Stand!

Like Reply Delete Report Ban...

Mostly participated on Game Jams. In Ludum Dare we became known because of our level of **polish**.



Although I was confused with the idea of hitting the fans to love you, this game captures perfectly the idea of 'the more, the worse'. With a simple control, we must avoid that the fans of your rival give you a powerful beating while we use our abilities so that they happen to our side. However, nd more fans will arrive, and you will find yourself running around the stage with an army of



Since this was my first Game Jam I didn't know Whales and Games, but it seems you guys are well known around here and for good reason (which makes you praising our game even more amazing <3).

This is one of my favourite games of the jam so far, its so well made, and really good humour. I do wonder whatever happened to

And after playing Jazzy Beats myself I can totally see why. What I played was an incredibly polished, bug-free and most importantly fun piece of entertainment software. The artwork is stunning (seriously, those menus), as is the sound which, in a game called Jazzy Beats, is just as important to me. The gameplay elements à la Streets of Rage are well implemented and the core mechanics of turning fans into allies instead of flat out killing them and not being able to directly fight your true opponent

Add some more levels with different enemy types and I can definitely see myself paying 15 bucks on steam for this gem. Easily the best submission I have seen so far! :)

Zccc says ...

Aug 30, 2016 @ 3:17pm

Wow, the amount of polish is amazing. I really got addicted to this, good job!

(A genuine quote from the creator 'José Castanheira'!)







We all got to start somewhere!

Even if we don't know what to make of ourselves at the start, we eventually find what clicks from our games with people.

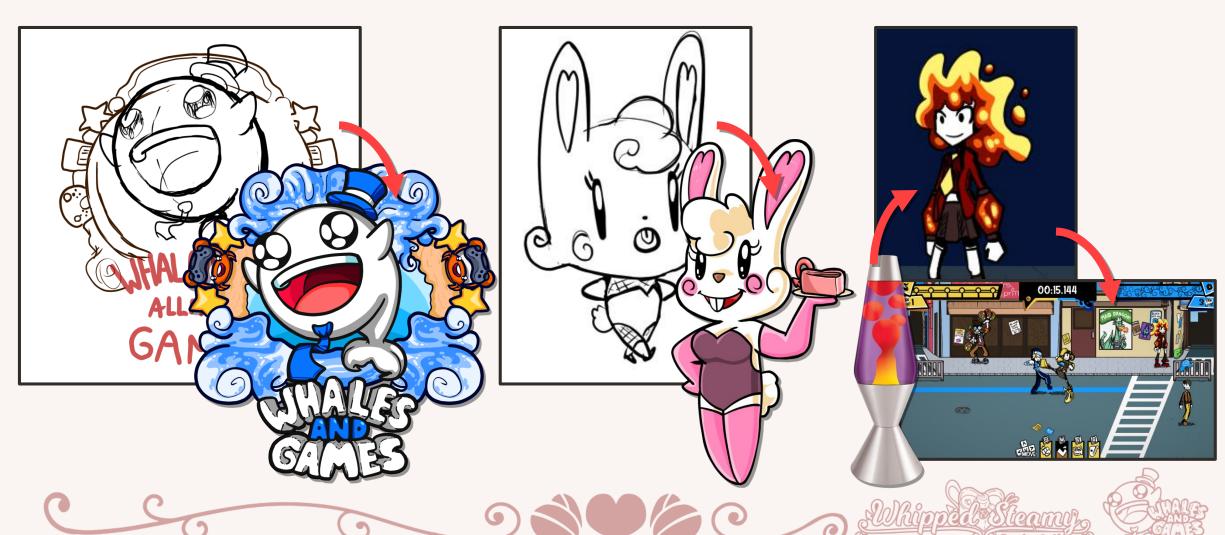






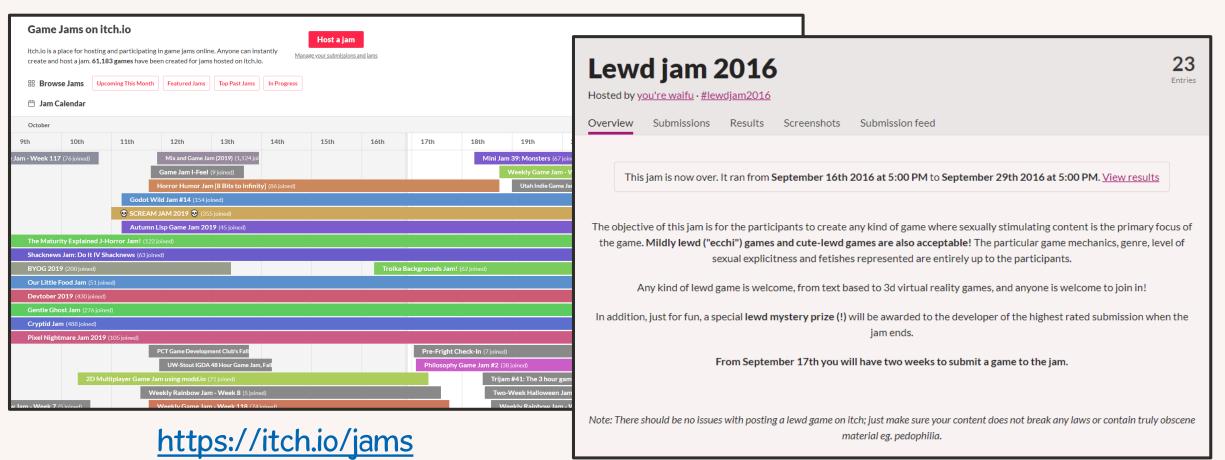
The best things that have happened to Whales And Games were accidents.







The story of 'Whipped and Steamy' begins with us searching around for new jams on itch.io to expand our jam portfolio.









JorgeGameDev | Polite Whale Today at 5:30 PM

How come que ainda não há uma Lewd Jam 2017? How come que ainda não há uma Lewd Jam 2017? How come que ainda não há uma Lewd Jam 2017?

How come que ainda não há uma Lewd Jam 2017?

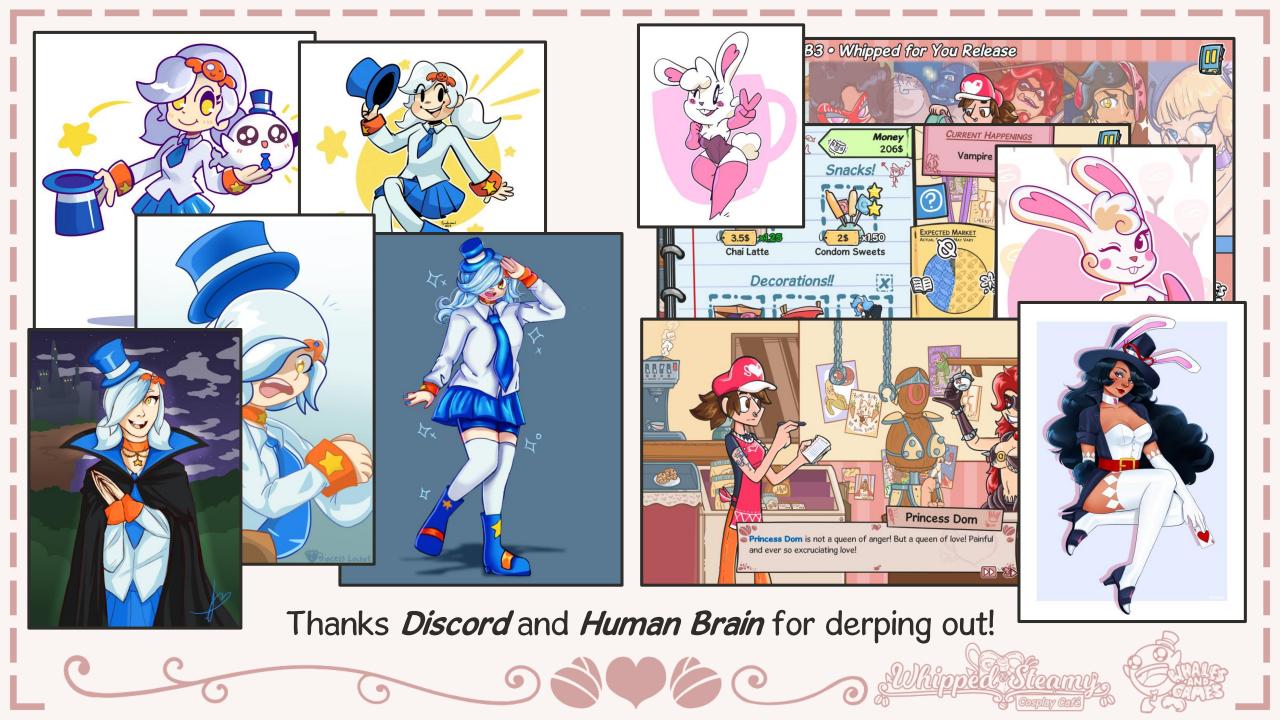
A single joke glitched-out comment led to...





...us making a parody 'Whalechan' that actually became a mascot.

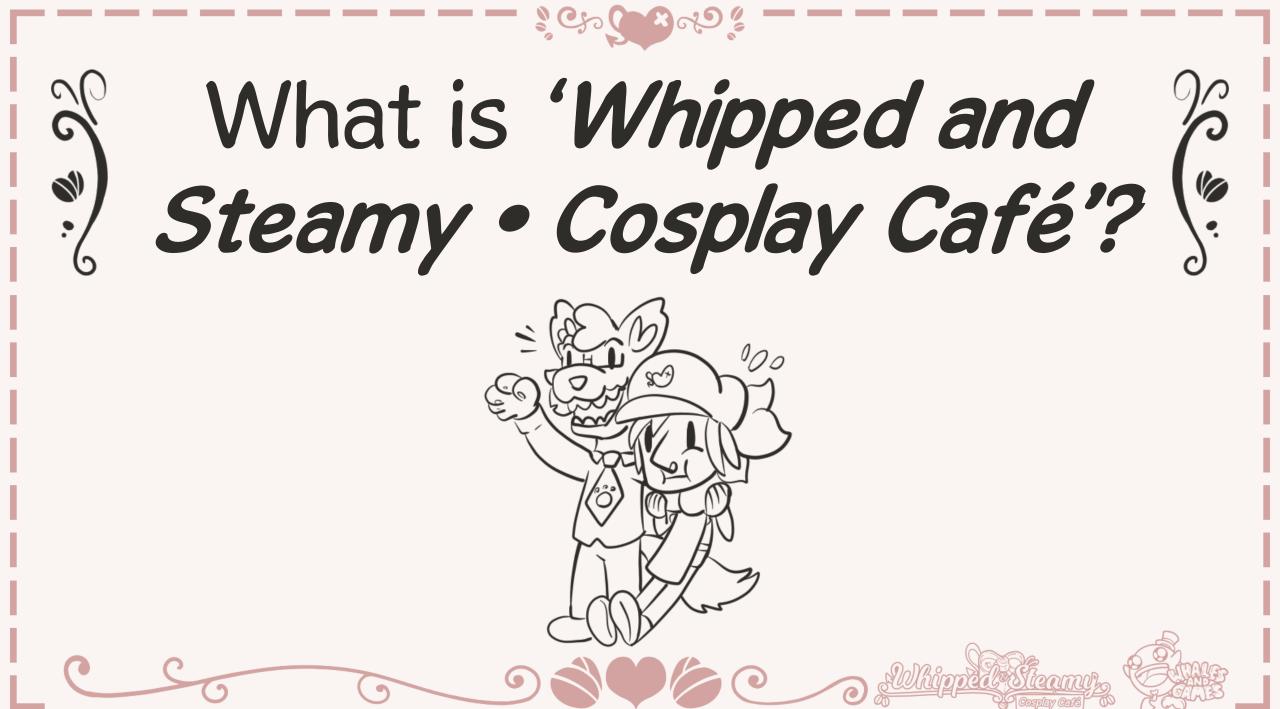
...us designing what would be WAG's take in an 'adult game'.





Experimenting, research and overall dumb ideas can lead to unexpected moments of brightness. Chill, joke around, experiment under tight deadlines and accept your creativity.









Management



Visual Novel

'Whipped and Steamy • Cosplay Café' management and visual novel game with an erotic-cosplay theme, set in a town where adult media became the new best thing.



Our goal was to design a game that's more about people's relationship with media (in this world, most of it being pornographic) rather than to be a *pornographic game itself*.



Cheqmate → Bunny Splash Casino (Videogame)



Captain Bootybeard → Tragedy of Capitan Bootybeard (Movies)



Pitch and describe your game in broad terms.

What are you trying to achieve, how are you going to get there, and what scope are you striving for?





The game was developed in 30 days for *Strawberry Jam 3*, an adult game jam with ratings in several categories including *Play*, *Narrative*, *Harmony*, *Aesthetics*, *Horniness*, *Sound*, ...









Whipped And Steamy • Cosplay Café

by Whales And Games, RobinHoodPT, JorgeGameDev (Polite Whale), Moski

Ranked 1st with 12 ratings (Score: 4.019)

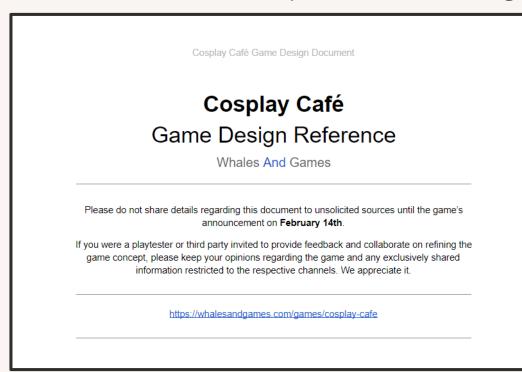
View submission page →

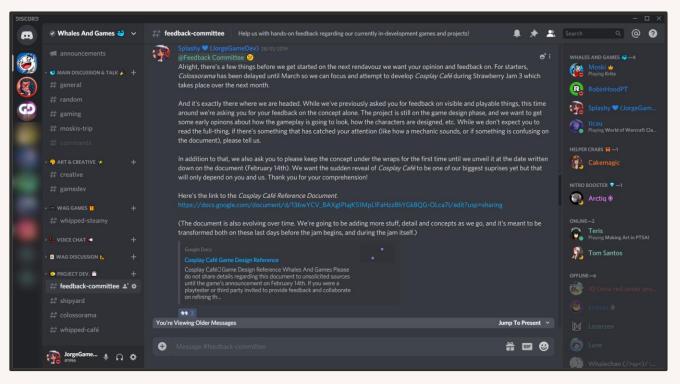
| | | | A | 52 | |
|------------------|------|--------|-----------|---------|-----|
| Criteria | Rank | Score* | | | |
| <u>Play</u> | #1 | 4.250 | | | |
| <u>Harmony</u> | #1 | 4.333 | | | |
| Sound | #1 | 4.667 | | | |
| Overall | #1 | 4.019 | | H | M |
| <u>Aesthetic</u> | #1 | 4.833 | | A DON'S | 244 |
| <u>Narrative</u> | #3 | 4.333 | | | 12 |
| <u>Novelty</u> | #4 | 3.833 | | | |
| <u>Kink</u> | #6 | 3.500 | | | |
| <u>Stealth</u> | #11 | 3.250 | 3.2 | 00 | |
| <u>Horny</u> | #14 | 3.167 | 3.10 | | 1 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | Λ | | |

And behold, we ended up scoring *Overall #1*, as well as #1 in *Play, Harmony, Sound* and *Aesthetic*, and got praise through the jam's and adult community, alike.



How do we scale from 3-day projects to a full-month endeavour? The most important thing we had to do was avoid over scope.

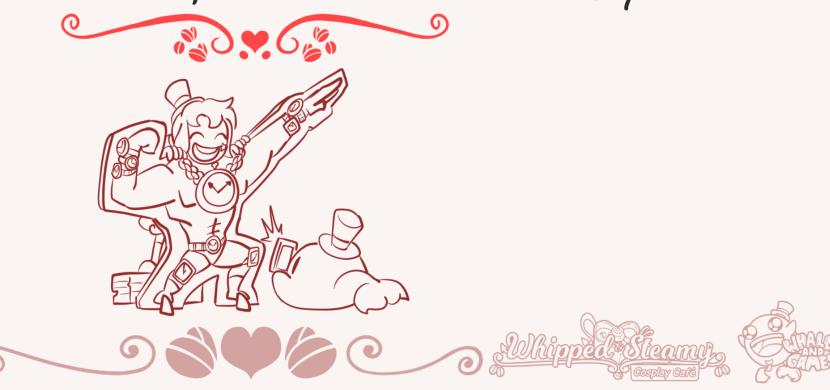




Being a specific genre game jam, we planned our design ahead of time, making design references, and iterated on it with *feedback*.



Game jams can be stressful events when one has a concept in mind and fails to see it to completion. Know your strengths, account for your weakness, and make the most of your time!

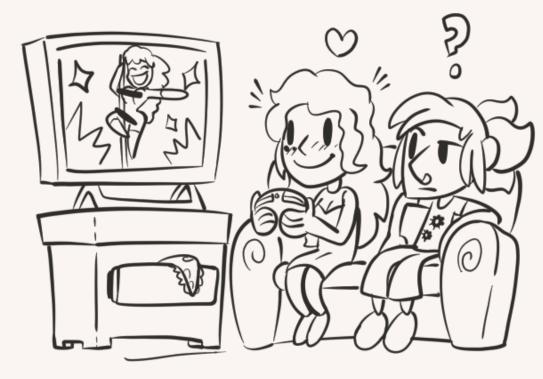






Let's talk about the elephant in the room! — 'Adult Games'



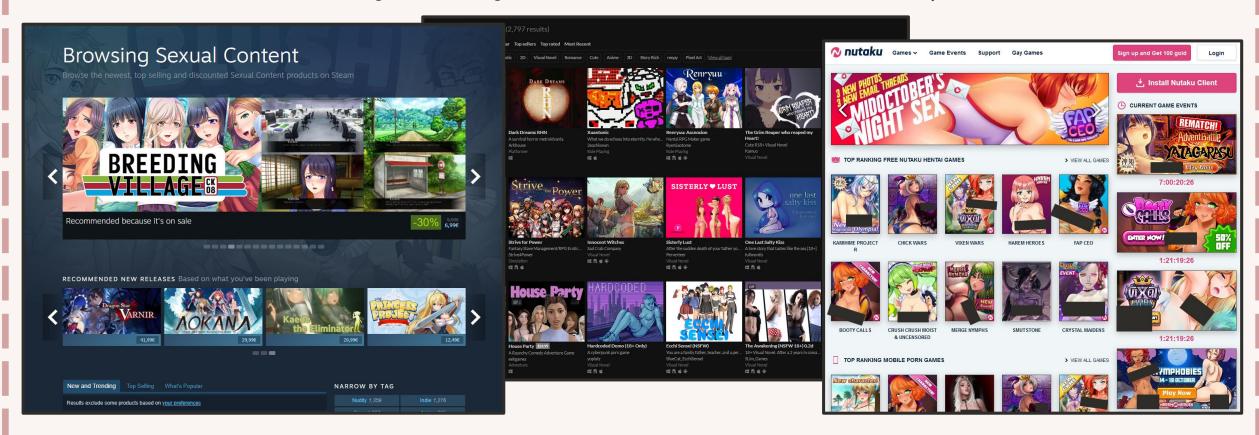






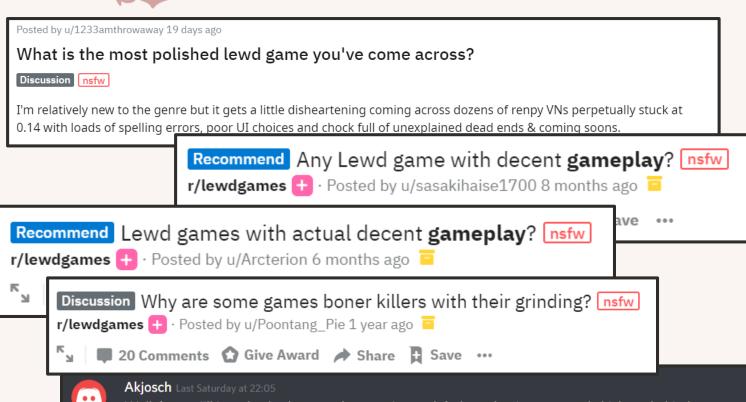
Adult games* have always been their own (often) hidden niche.

(*in the context of this talk, adult games are games that feature erotic themes - nudity, sexual themes and content)



Steam, Itch.io and dedicated portals like Nutaku have lead to the proliferation of adult games.

Yet the genre is often perceived, even by it's own fandom, as low quality, gameplay-lacking, grindy etc., with there being a whole audience wanting the opposite, but still being delivered the same thing.

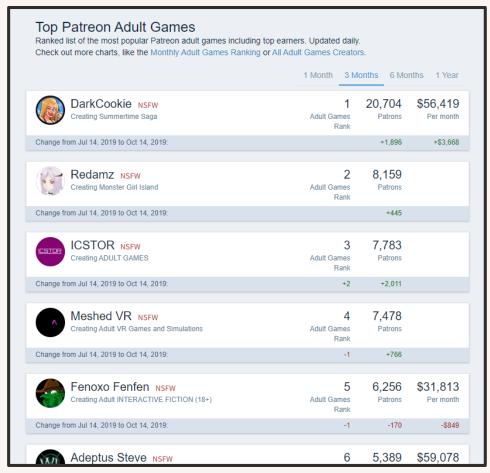


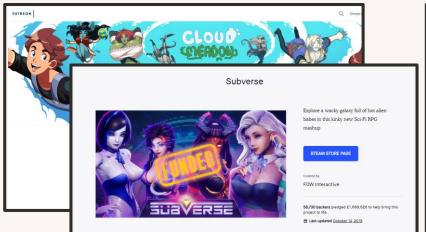
Well, for me I'll just check whatever short stories are left there that interest me (which are behind waiting times, so no way to speed it up anyway), and expect to leave the game behind in a week or two. Others will probably try to go for 100% completion as usual.

Villa Party Has Less Game and More Debauchery

While there are quite a few Nutaku games that tack on the adult entertainment bits, Villa Party is much more focused on the sex. Players will make choices as they make their way around the party, and the results of your decisions will determine who you're going to be spending some special time with.













New breath has started to come to the audience with *Patreon*, *Kickstarter* and **iterative releases**. There's a needy-growing market, and 'heroes' of the genre have started popping up.



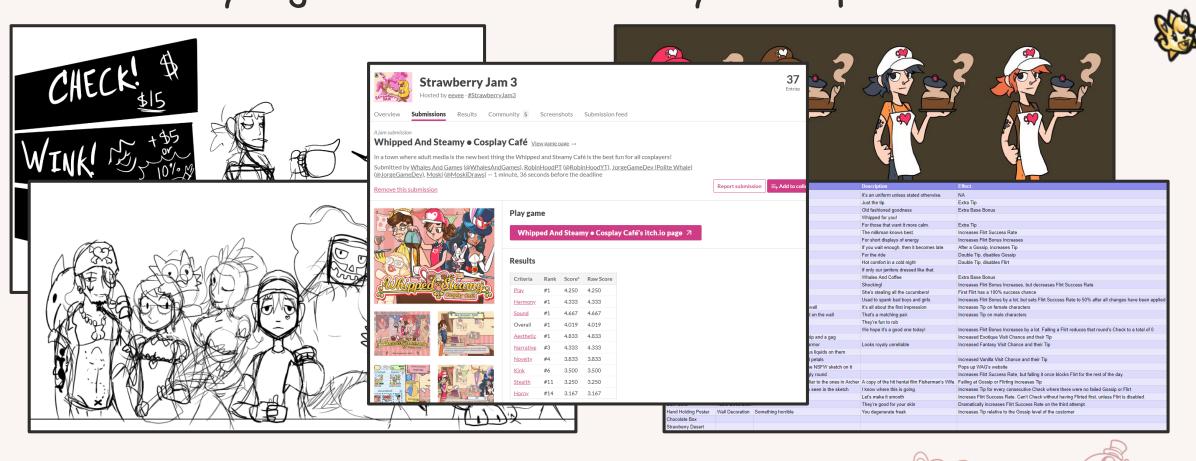
Study your market, understand their needs.

Learn from what came before or what's current. What can you change or fulfil in a genre? What are you introducing that's new?





Observing the *needs of the audience*, but also wanting to do our twist in the genre we started designing *'Cosplay Café'* back in 2017, I and eventually aligned it with the 30-day development time of SJ3!





"Paixão com Razão" - Sometimes the 'present time' is simply not the ideal time for a project. Don't wait for the perfect moment, but don't go for something if you know it won't work out at the time either.

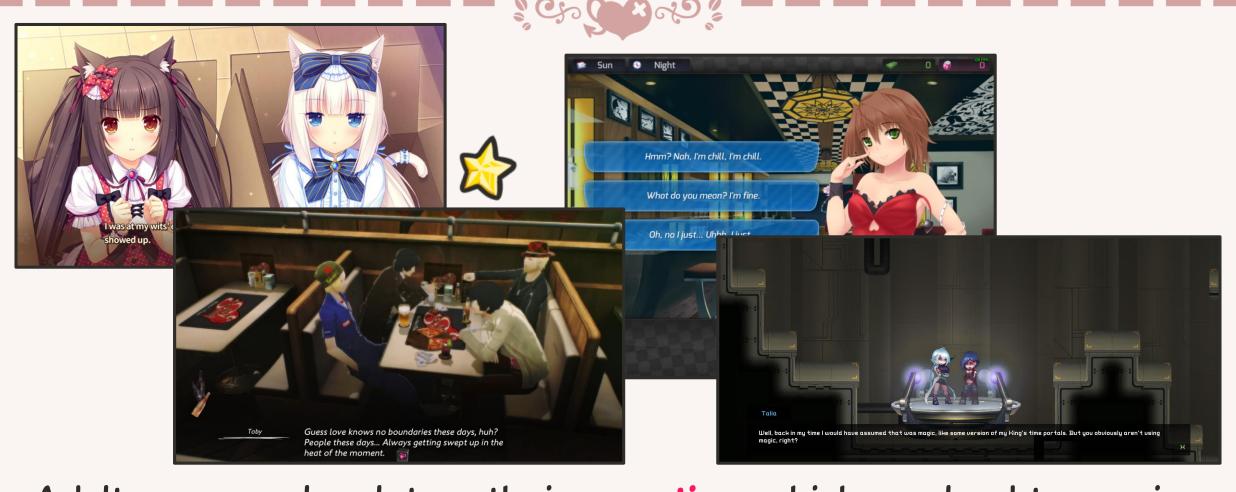




Building a believable world where ero-media reigns supreme!







Adult games rely a lot on their narrative, which can lead to varying degrees of success depending on their settings and themes.

It's was important to set a setting right.



As such, an early worry in development was the *project's writing*, and that we could alienate players if we missed the mark.

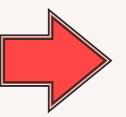


We decided to go with the risk, trusting our previous experience with *The Farming One* and *Petty Puny Planet*.



Being in charge of the writing allowed us to better approach the direction we wanted with our project's characters.







Mop Maid → Deep Gold Diggers (TV Soap Opera)

We know the game had to use *world-building* together *narrative* writing and game design if we wanted to struck out in adult games.



Don't be afraid to trust your gut and experiment with your skills!

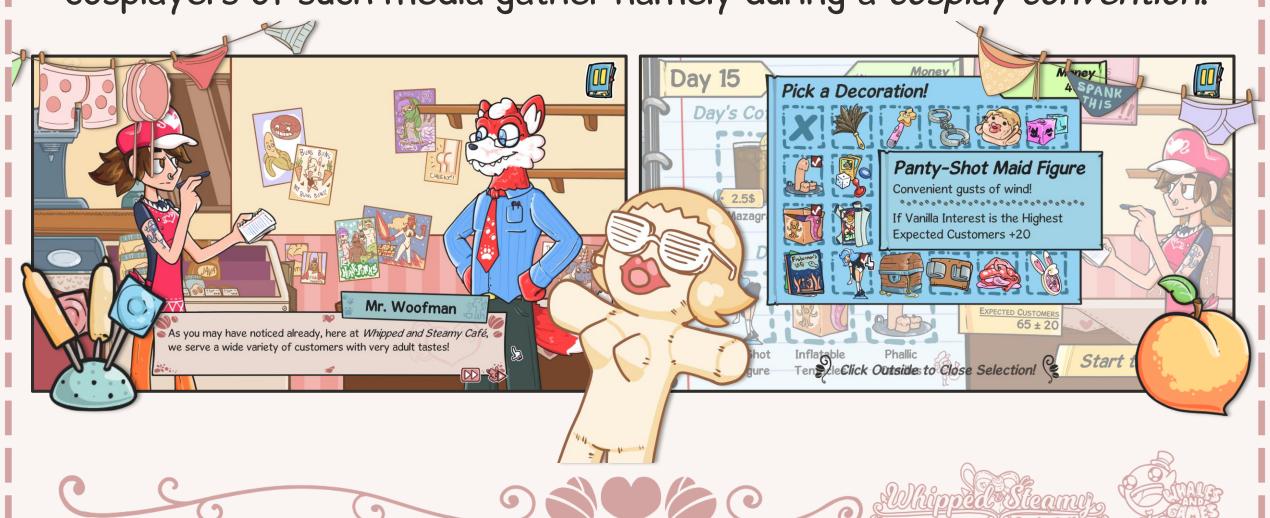
But also remember to collect feedback during the process.

Talk with community members, other developers, playtesters, etc.





We decided on our setting as 'A town where ero-media became widespread and mainstream, instead of taboo.' and a café where cosplayers of such media gather namely during a cosplay convention.







Princess Dom → Feudal Dominance (Roleplaying Community)

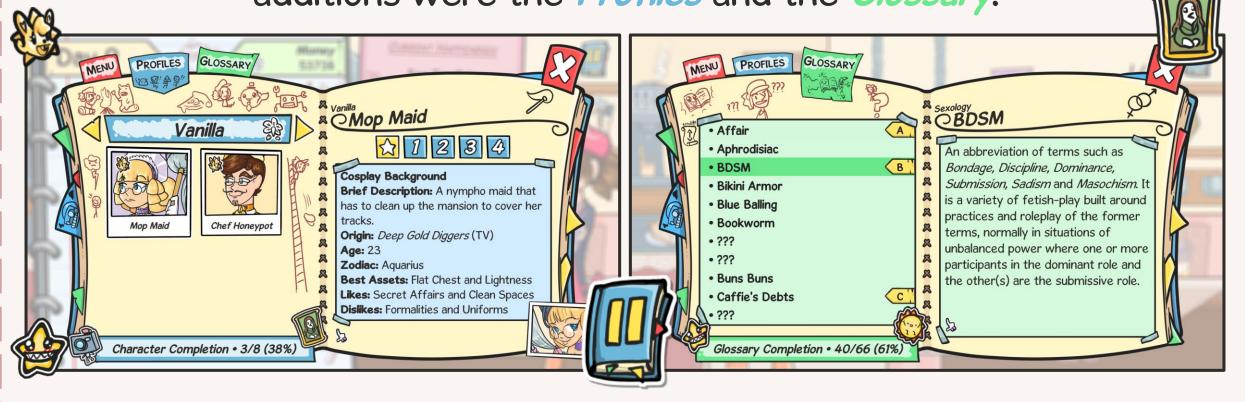


El Bidissimo → Submissionmania (Videogame)

For the different characters, we took various media formats and modelled characters after them. *Books, Films, Video Games, Online Roleplay,* etc. Our character diversity comes from *their relationship with their media.*



To ease players into the world and its themes, one of our most popular additions were the *Profiles* and the *Glossary*.



This allowed players to learn more about concepts, fiction and characters of the 'Whipped and Steamy' world, as well as about sexology itself.





All of this allowed us to be creatively free when it comes to characters, both in their art as well as their writing.

However, a certain character was still necessary to make them accessible to connect with, and for that we used...





Design a world that makes sense to its inhabitants. What may be alien or over-the-top for us can be the most grounded thing for them. However, make sure that the player still has an entry point.







Interesting characters through Juxtapositional Conflict!













Juxtaposition

\ jək-stə-pə-'zi-shən noun



1. the act or an instance of placing two or more things side by side often to compare or contrast or to create an interesting effect

interesting effect

Merriam-Webster



| *Caffie*, our game's protagonist, was designed to be alien to the adult | themes. She's a mechanic, interprets things literally, is dead-pan, etc. |





Games and stories are built around conflict!

Having X, wanting Y, achieving Z. Setting a character on the wrong place at the right time is a starting point that writes itself.

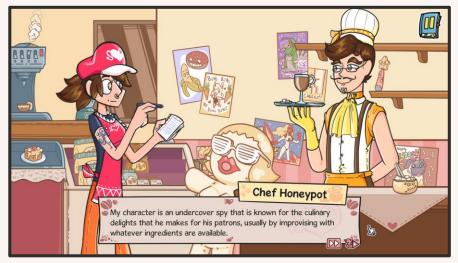


Characters (other than Caffie) have **two** faces:

The Character – The character they're trying to emulate.

The Cosplayer - The person who they are under the dress-up.

Characters aren't just there for the 'sexy' reasons/persona, they're people beyond the character they're cosplaying.



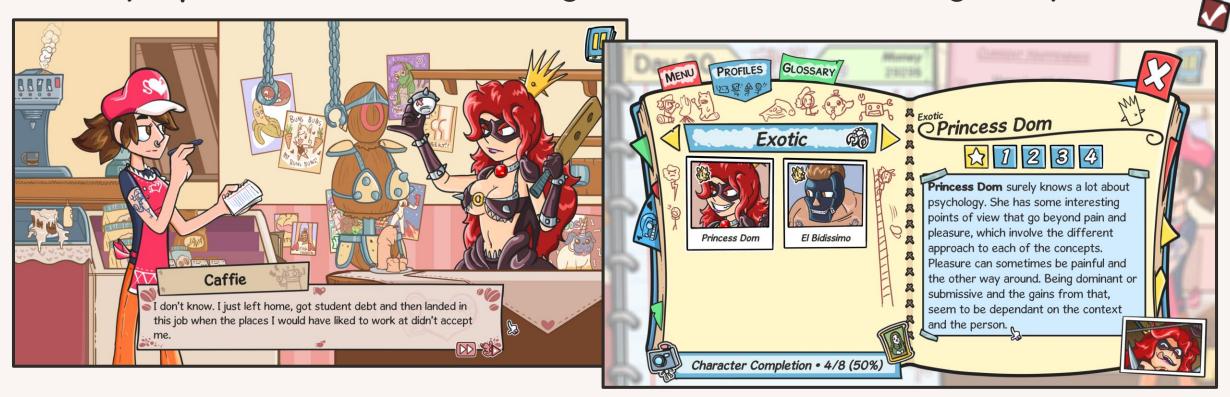
Character - Seduction Spy Chef



Cosplayer – Former Junkie



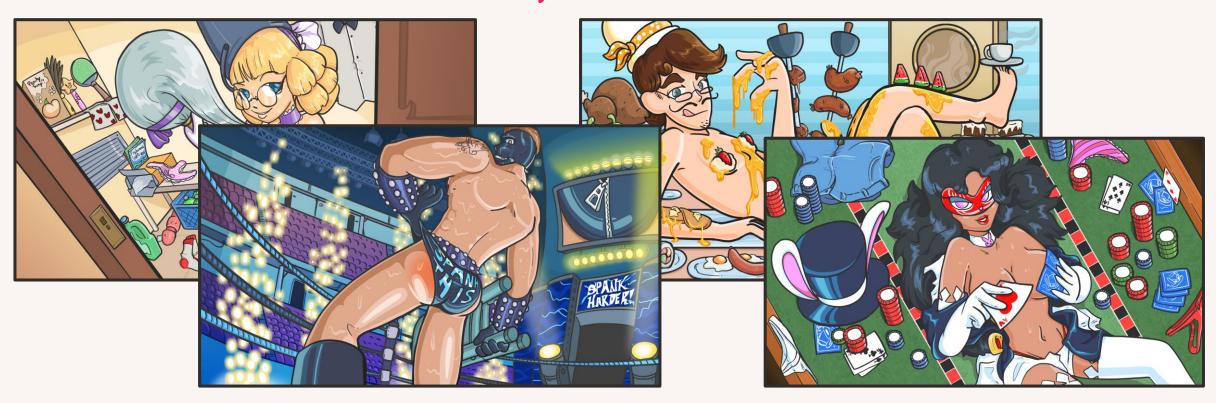
The game becomes about exploring how *Caffie* interacts with her costumers, understanding their characters, comprehending them as a cosplayer, and understanding herself as well during the process.



These interactions became the best part of the game for most players.

- North Carrie

However, being a game that still classified itself as an "adult game" we still needed some visual 'spiciness' with the characters as well.



Once you complete a relationship path with a character, you get a fan-service artwork of them, celebrating both character and cosplayer as one.



Character development goes beyond just how they look. They have looks, personality, backgrounds, likes, dislikes, attitudes when challenged, attitudes when pleased, and more!







Chicken or Egg: Start with the Setting/Story or Gameplay?











We knew we needed to have narrative elements to make characters relatable, but also introduce gameplay mechanics that combated the "adult games have no gameplay" stigma.



We designed the gameplay loop in a way that it would both motivate gameplay and narrative and assure they would connect as much as possible.



Cosplay Café was created long before the current mechanics were decided. This allowed us to tweak the core gameplay to better fit the setting we wanted to conceive.



Caffie an undergraduate that takes the job of a coffee waitress at a cosplay-centric café as an important convention is coming up. However, in this world, adult entertainment dominates the

to upgrade the café that was left at her hands, all in all while establishing friendships with the

The game forces you to take multiple business-centric decisions while challenging you to juggle between them as you try to level-up the relationships with different characters. Will you try to



Gameplay

The Setting affected the Gameplay's Development!

Setting



But, deciding on certain mechanics like the **cosplayer groups** also allowed us to design characters that better fit the different groups and allowed us tweak the **setting** of the game!



Expected market dictates the likelihood of a character from a specific group to appear.



Visual novel segments for getting-to-know characters over multiple relationship levels eventually unlocking their artwork.



A day at the 'Whipped and Steamy Café'!

Management planning, picking/buying items for the day to affect expected market to cosplayer groups, tips, payouts, etc.



Grants buffs that benefit the Management side.





Games are not just 'form follows function'! Design don't just go one way. A game's setting is likely to affect a game's mechanics, and a game's mechanics can improve a game's setting.







Content-Driven Pipeline with new and existing *Unity* knowledge

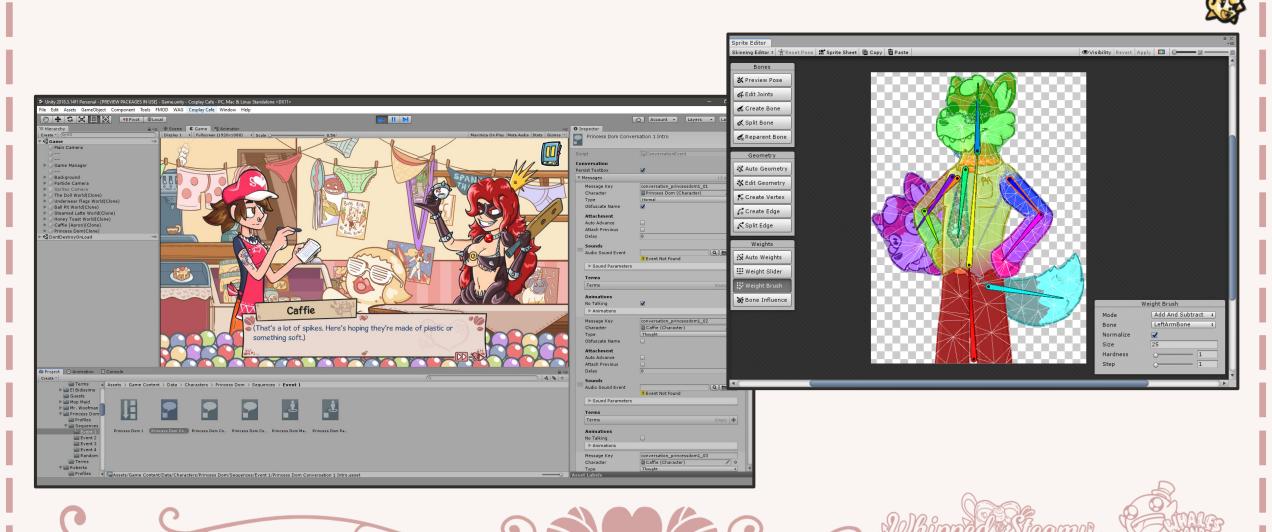




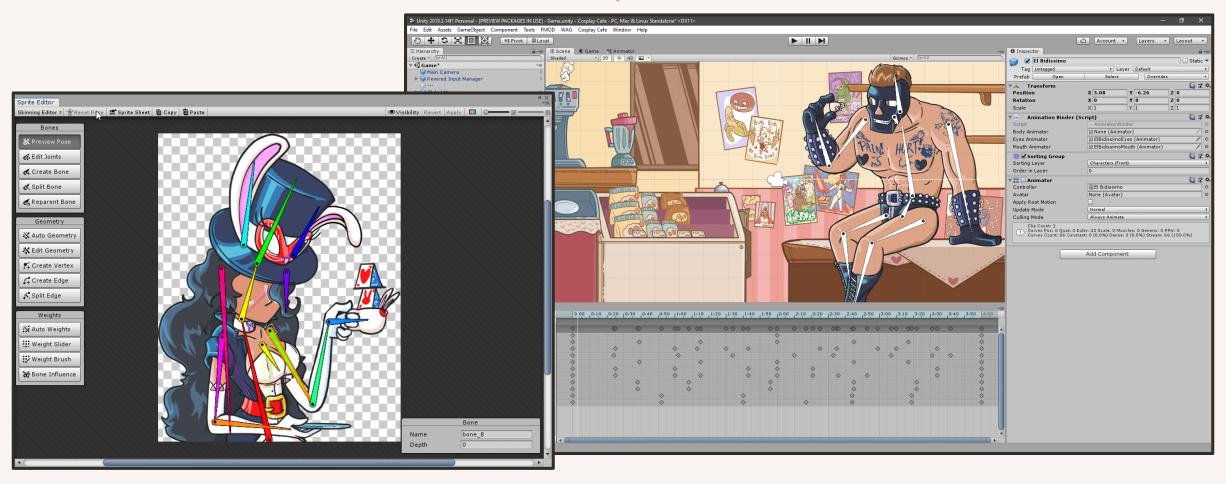




When participating in a game jam, it's important that you know what you are using. In our case, we, once again, used the *Unity Engine*.







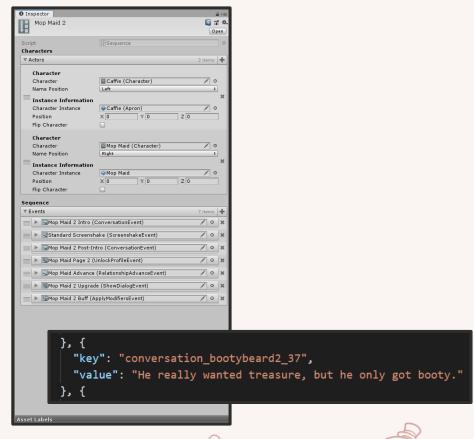
For animation, we used the new 2D Animation preview package, which allowed us to rig and animate characters directly on the editor itself.



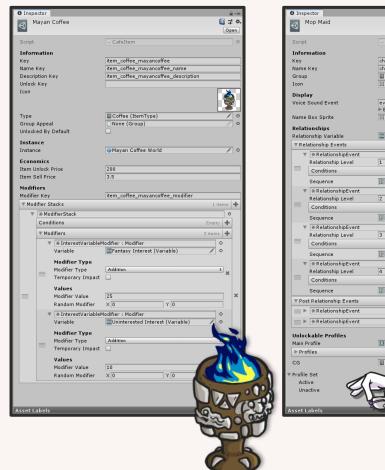


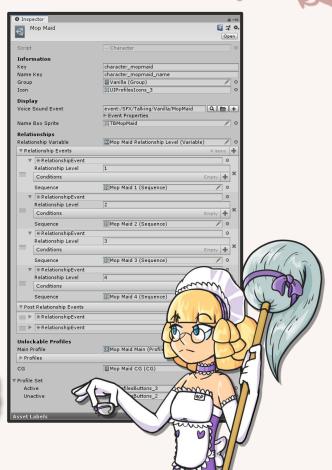
Our dialog system for the *Visual Novel* segments was brought over from *Petty Puny Planet*, but was expanded with the *Scriptable Objects* knowledge from *Super Sellout* and made even more modular.

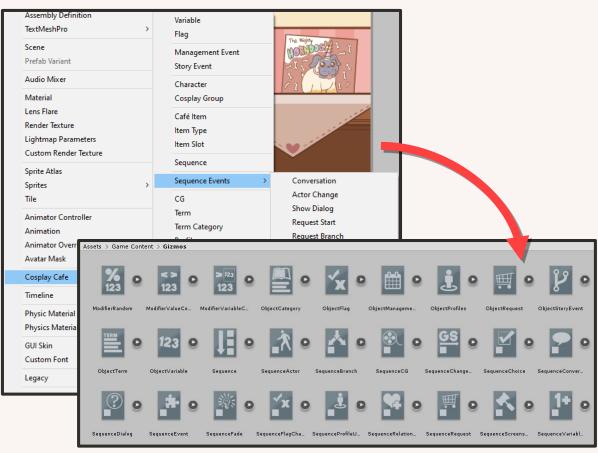










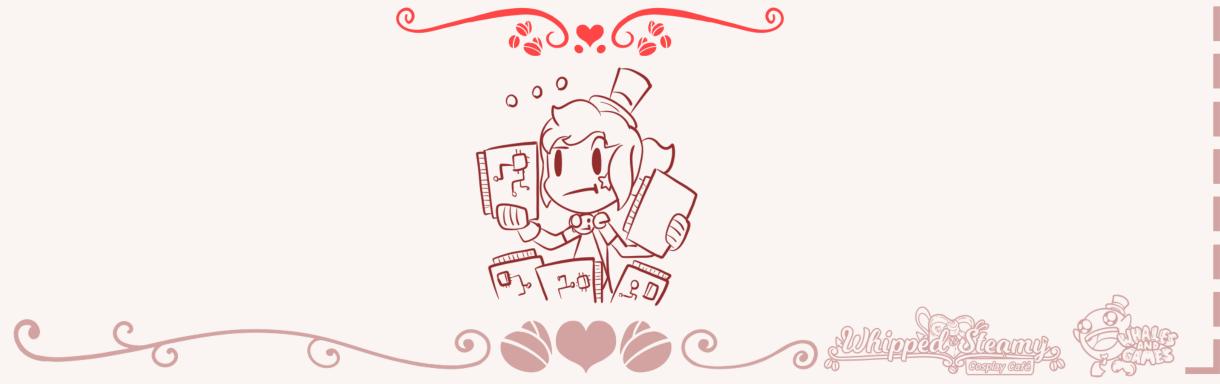


In fact, our entire game content relays on *Scriptable Objects* that are then read at runtime, making an **entire content-driven pipeline**.





Know your tools, what you have done and don't be afraid of experimenting. Don't reinvent the wheel, cut time by reusing what you have, and don't be afraid of using unstable tools if it improves your game.







The final stroke on the painting: Polish!

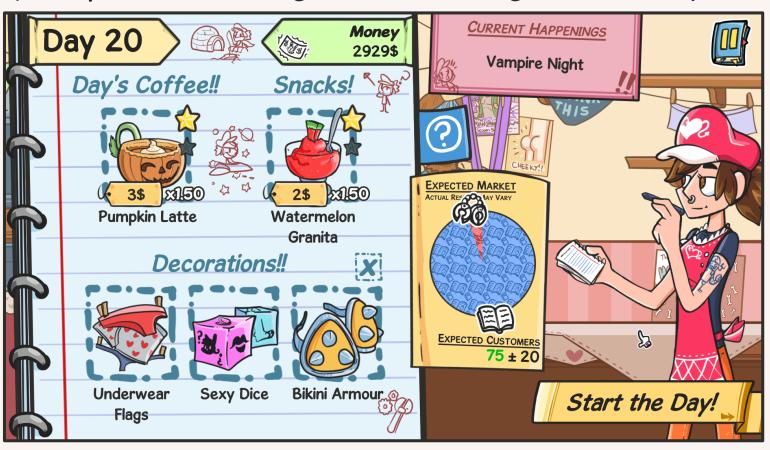


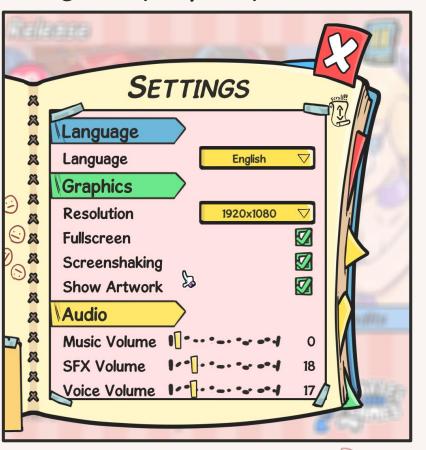


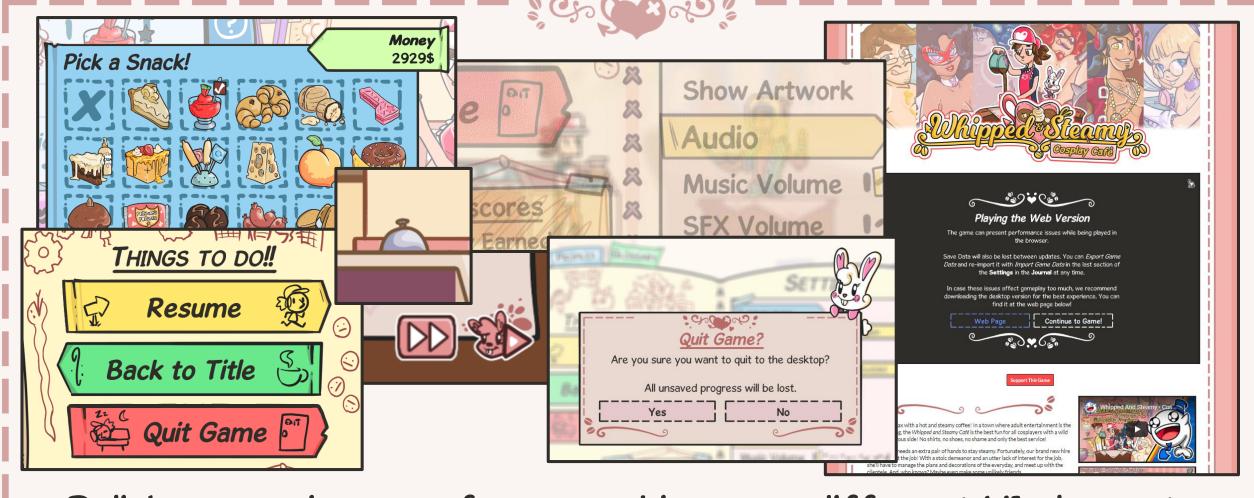




For us, the definition of **polish** is 'the amalgamation of small details that combined improve the feedback given to the player and improve the overall quality feel of the game, resulting in a more pleasant gameplay experience.'





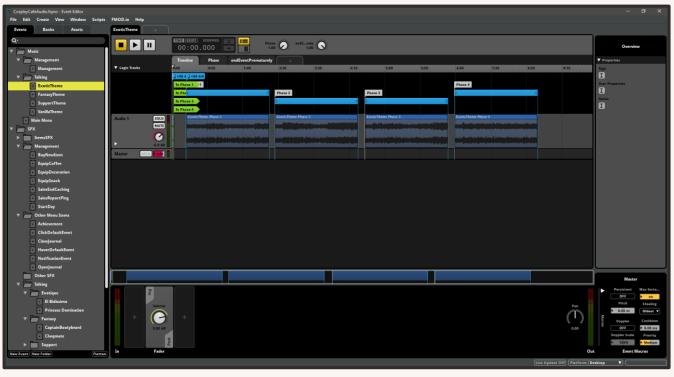


Polish comes in many forms, making sure different UI elements react to the player, paying attention to quality of life features, and just adding more 'charm' where possible.



Using **FMod** (*middleware*) also allowed the music to be *dynamic*.

Each cosplay group has their own track, and each level of relationship with a character adds an extra layer to the music.











Polish is the unsung hero of game development. Players and developers alike will definitely tell a game's quality apart due to it's polish. Each game has their own way of being polished.







We released an erotic-themed game. What now?



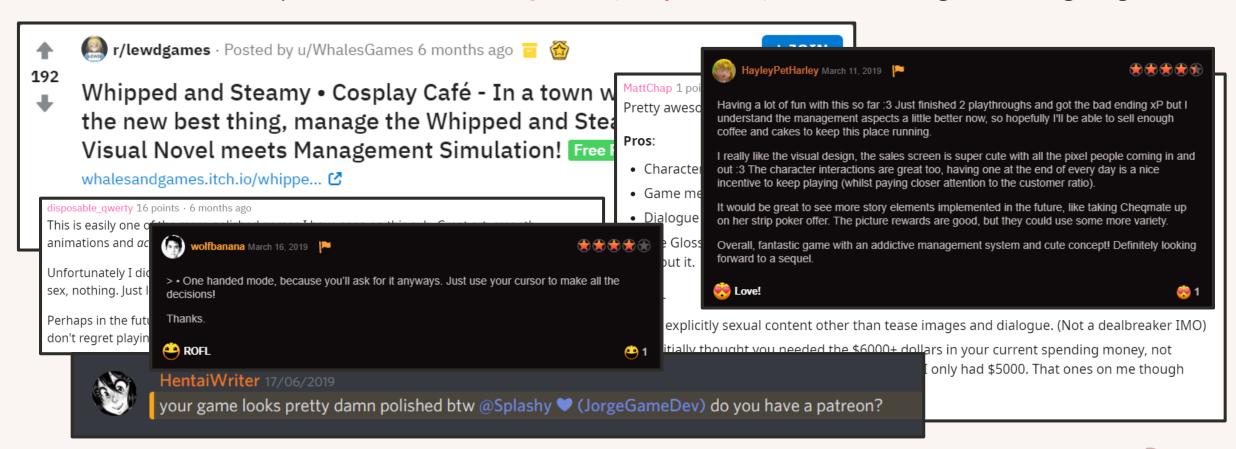


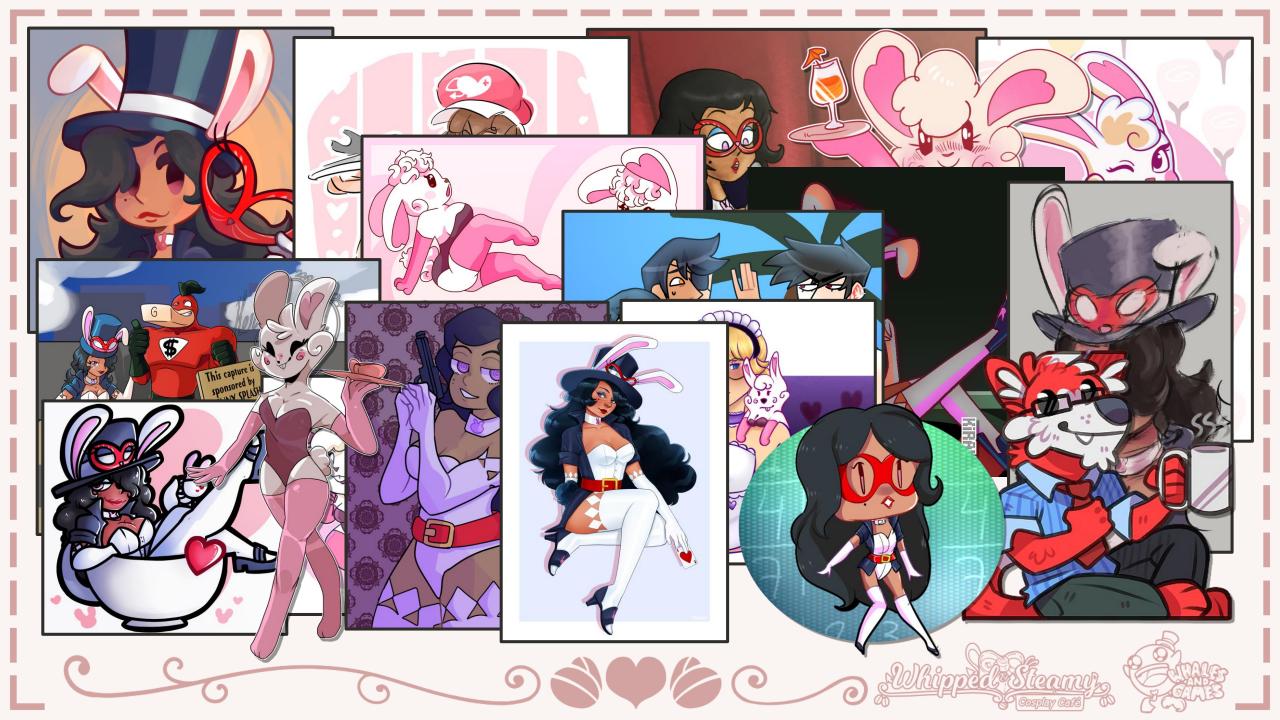




Despite success during Strawberry Jam 3,

One of our worries would be our reception in adult channels, but we got excellent reception with the gameplay and polish being the highlights.







Yet, even with the game's decent reception in both sides, it also makes us question just exactly who exactly are we marketing it to.





Marketing is too broad, and can be achieved in many different ways. Showcase, be open minded and friendly, don't spam people, post in the places appropriate to your game and seek your audience.



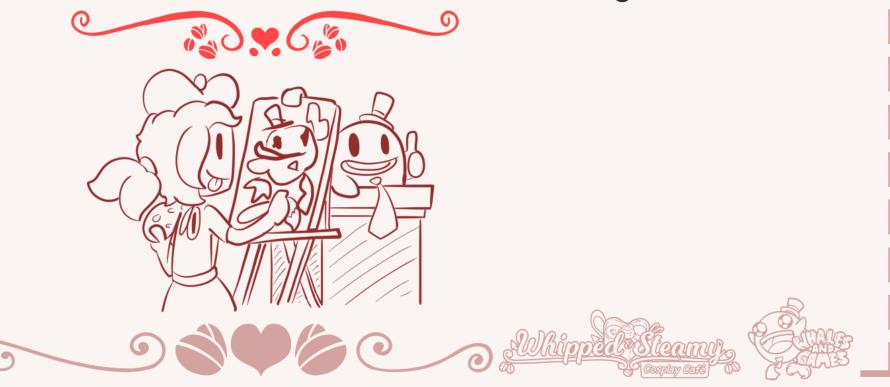


Whales And Games is at a tipping point. A one-month project changed who we are, and now we question ourselves where we are headed.

We hope you join along for the journey.



Sometimes we have to overthink. We're all faced with questions that we need answers for yet we need to keep on moving. The important thing is that we keep being enthusiastic about what we are doing as creatives.



Play Whipped and Steamy!





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Thank you for % listening!

Q&A away!





