

Requirements in Conflict Player vs. Designer vs. Cheater

David Callele

Eric Neufeld

Kevin Schneider

{callele, eric, kas}@cs.usask.ca



Stakeholder Diversity

- **Producers**
 - **Designer, Developer, Publisher, Distributor, Vendor**
 - **Financier, Marketer, Media, After-market Suppliers, Regulator, Society**
- **Consumers**
 - **Game players**
 - **Player vs. Game (PvG)**
 - **Player vs. Player (PvP)**

Producer Requirements

- **Game Design and Implementation**
 - **Gameplay (emotional) experience**
 - **Financial success**
- **Security**
 - **Artistic vision**
 - **IP protection**
 - **Integrity of gameplay experience**
 - **Positive player experience**

Consumer Requirements

- **Emotional experience (fun, escape, accomplishment)**
- **Value for my money**
- **Some control over the gameplay experience**
 - **Give me at least *some* choices!**
- **Self-validation**

The Problem

- **No game is perfectly designed**
- **Player feels betrayed**
 - **Puzzles too hard / easy**
 - **Gameplay is repetitive / boring / takes too long**
 - **Can't play just the fun parts**
 - **Can't fix the bad parts**

Conflict: Who has Control?

- **Constructive stakeholders**
 - Work to improve a (flawed) experience
- **Destructive stakeholders**
 - Work to interfere with the gameplay experience
 - Cheat: the game, other players
 - Destructive infrastructure attacks
 - Disruptive gameplay (a.k.a. *griefing*)
- **Security threats anticipated by a *priori* security requirements**

The Proposal

- Use in-game justice systems as a metaphor for just-in-time requirements negotiation
- Gameplay requirements \leftrightarrow Laws
- Justice systems
 - Authority
 - Penalty
 - Enforcement
 - Recidivism

Prior Experience

- **Administrative Control**
 - Developer acts as judiciary
- **Player Control**
 - Usually, with assistance of developer
 - A Tale In The Desert
- **Player Classing**
 - Players for virtual world (PvG)
 - Players for combat (PvP)

Discussion

- **Dynamic RE techniques for**
 - **Eliciting and capturing requirements**
 - **Translating requirements into laws**
 - **Translating laws into gameplay**
- **A priori vs Runtime requirements**
 - **Is it possible?**
 - **Can we handle the repercussions?**
 - **Is it worth it?**

Extension to Other Areas

- **Is the concept applicable to other areas?**
 - **In what manner?**
 - **Are specific techniques applicable?**

Conclusions

- **Realtime requirements negotiation could be implemented via in-game justice systems**
- **Transition from concept to implementation is difficult**
- **Extensibility to other domains is still an open question**