Spring & Steam an Odyssey

Eshed Shaham FOSDEM 2020

Spring RTS Engine

- Supplies various services for games
 - Scripting
 - Physics
 - Graphics
 - Pathfinding
 - Networking
- Currently (31.01.2020)
 - 27,963 commits
 - ~100 contributors
 - <2 active core developers</p>



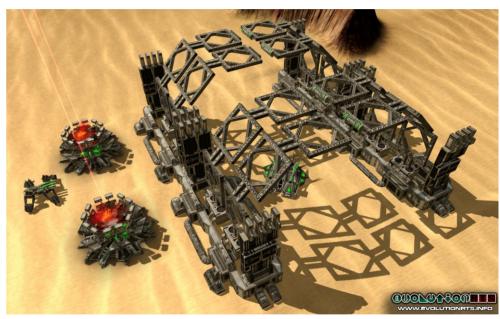




Total Annihilation (1997)

TA-Spring (2005)





Zero-K

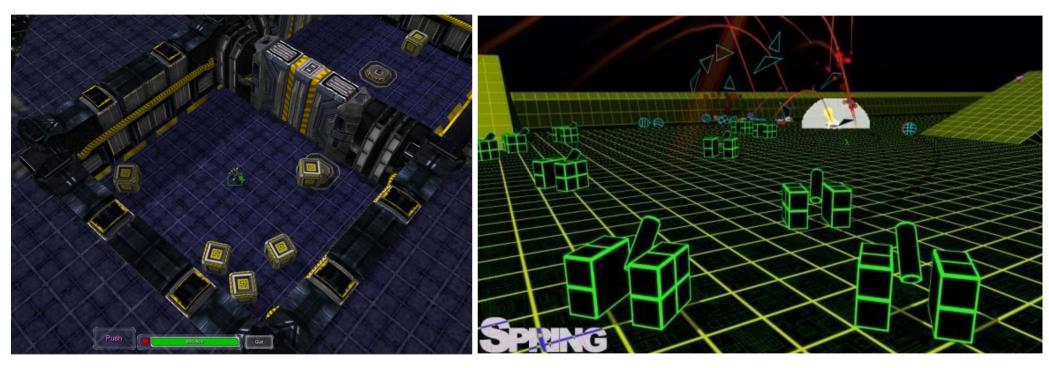
Evolution RTS





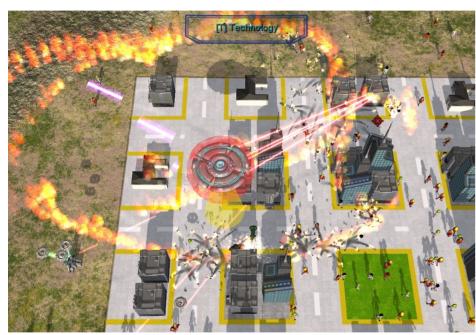
Spring: 1944

Imperial Winter



Gravitas

Kernel Panic





Area 17

Parts Needed

Zero-K Steam Launch

- First version released May 2007
- Reached popularity ~2009
- Steam Greenlight April 2014

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Licho [author] 18 May, 2014 @ 3:45am

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Steam Launch – June 2014

Questions?

EvoRTS Steam Launch

- First version released Dec. 2007
- Reached popularity ???
- Steam Greenlight January 2013
- Steam Launch 4th April, 2014

Now Available on Steam - Evolution RTS

Product Release - Valv

7 Apr. 2014

Evolution RTS is Now Available on Steam

Evolution RTS is a free an Open Source RTS game designed using the Spring Engine. It has been in development for over 5 years and receives updates often. It's gameplay is designed specifically to appeal to gamers of all skill levels. The gameplay is designed around the use of unit groups, and the mixture of your unit group often will determine how successful you are in battle, as opposed to churning out hundreds of the same unit continually.

The economy and teching system is easy to learn and use. The game itself supplies many tools that make managing your economy easier so that you can focus more on crushing your enemy than of playing simcity in your base. Units interact using realistic physics and varied terrain (you can actually micro units in order to dodge projectiles!).



Now Available on Steam - Evolution RTS

roduct Release - Valve

HELP STEAM USERS!

by Forboding Angel » 07 Apr 2014, 20:32

Please help me! I'm at work and steam users are flooding in!

SPringie is spawning spring 91 autohosts!!! It needs to be spring 96!!







Forboding Angel Evolution RTS Developer

Posts: 14375

Joined: 17 Nov 2005, 02:43



Now Available on Steam - Evolution RTS

Note: This is not a review of the gameplay itself, and you'll find out why in a second.

The download for the game is simply a download for a game lobby.

OH GOD WHY.

I hung around for around 25 minutes trying to figure out how to just start a game. The Terms of Service for the Spring Engine

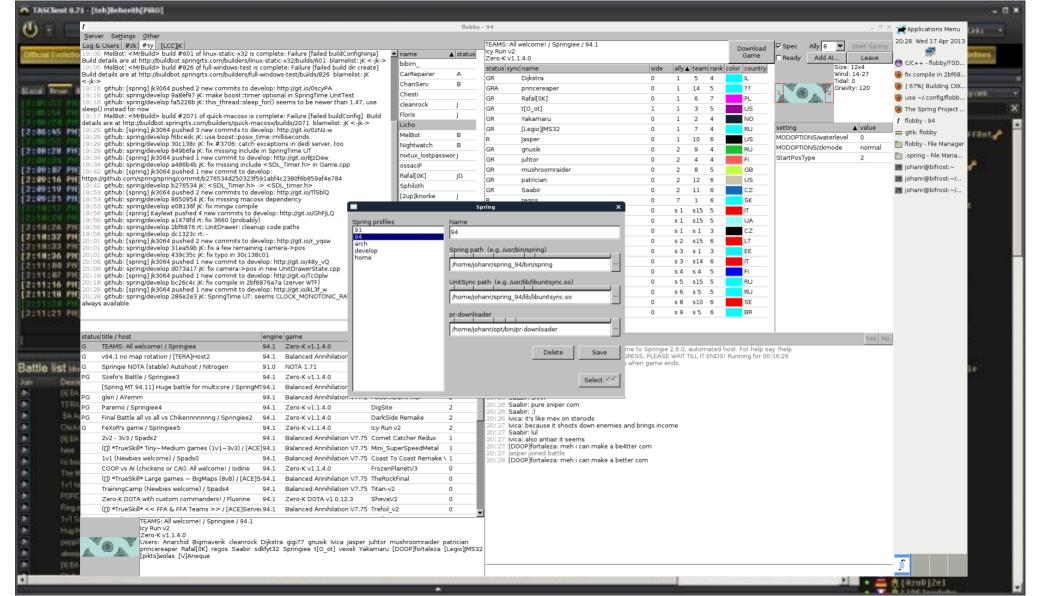


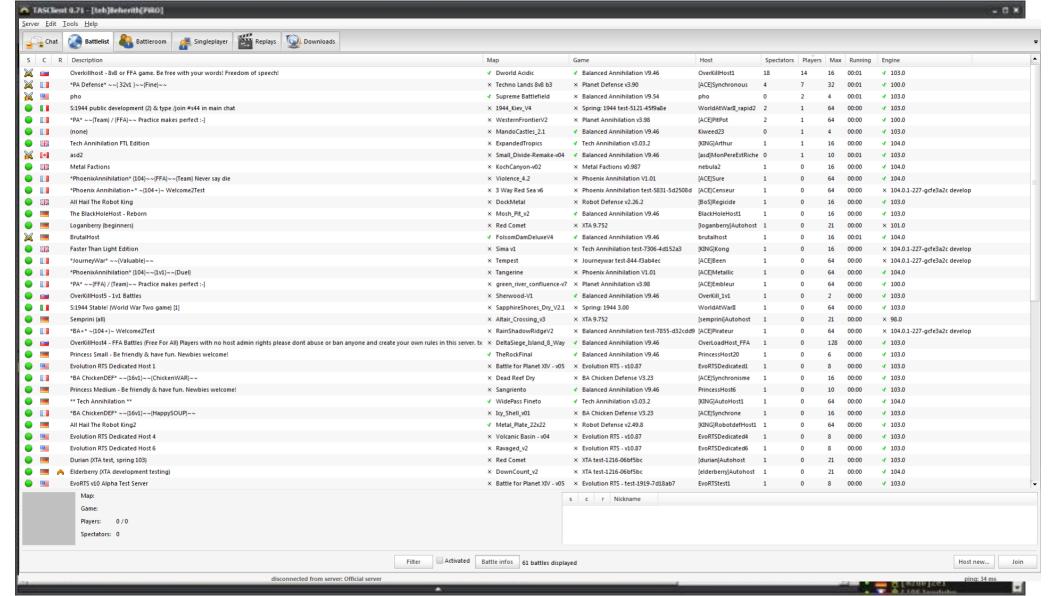
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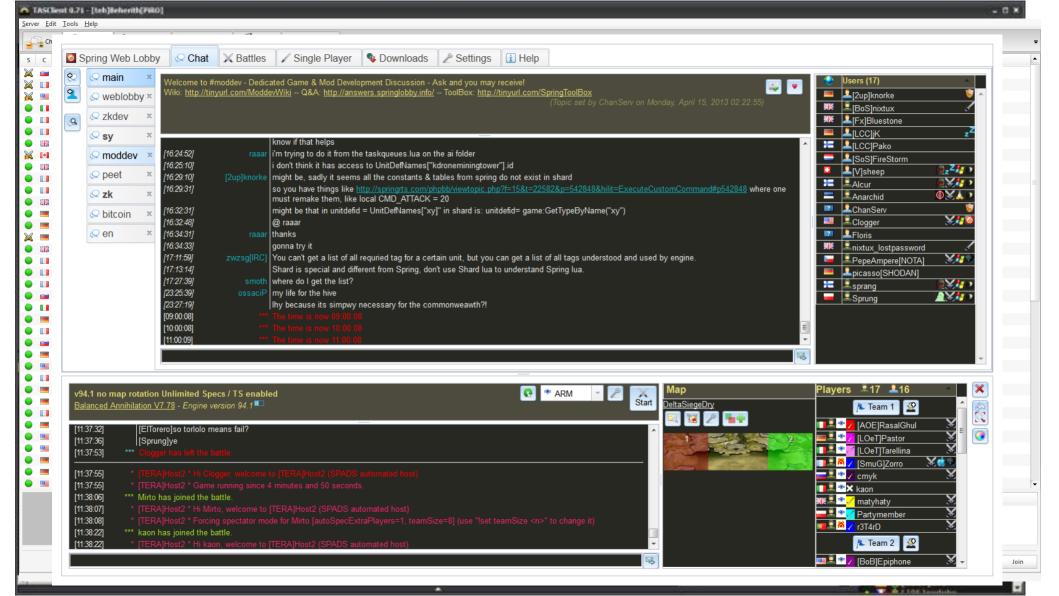
Note: This is not a review of the gameplay itself, and you'll find **CUSTOMER REVIEWS** Th€ 50% of the 385 user reviews for this game are positive. me lob Overall Reviews. OH Mixed (385 reviews) just start a game. The Terms of Service for the Spring Engine

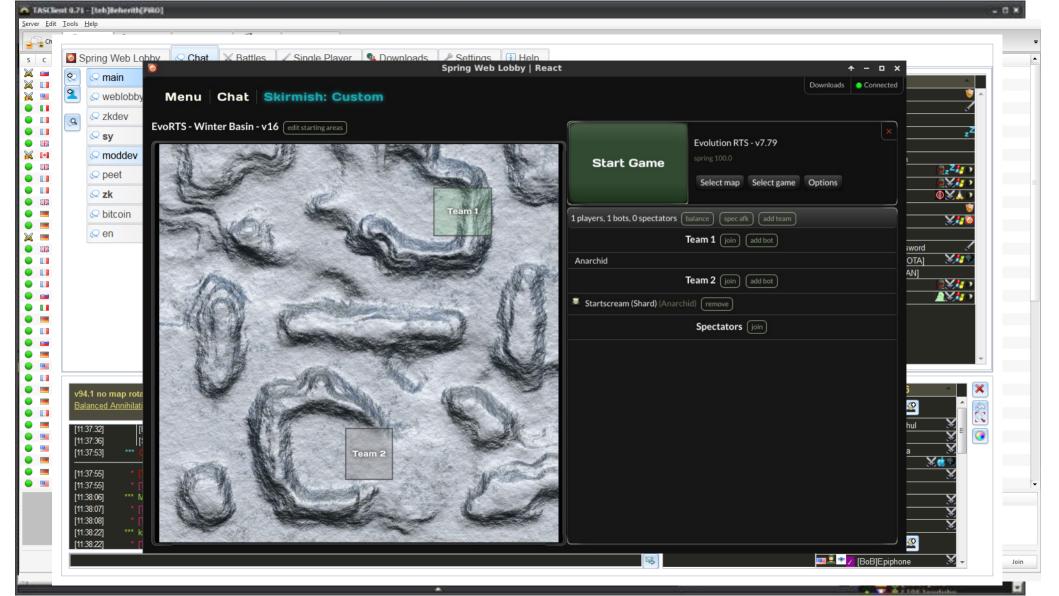


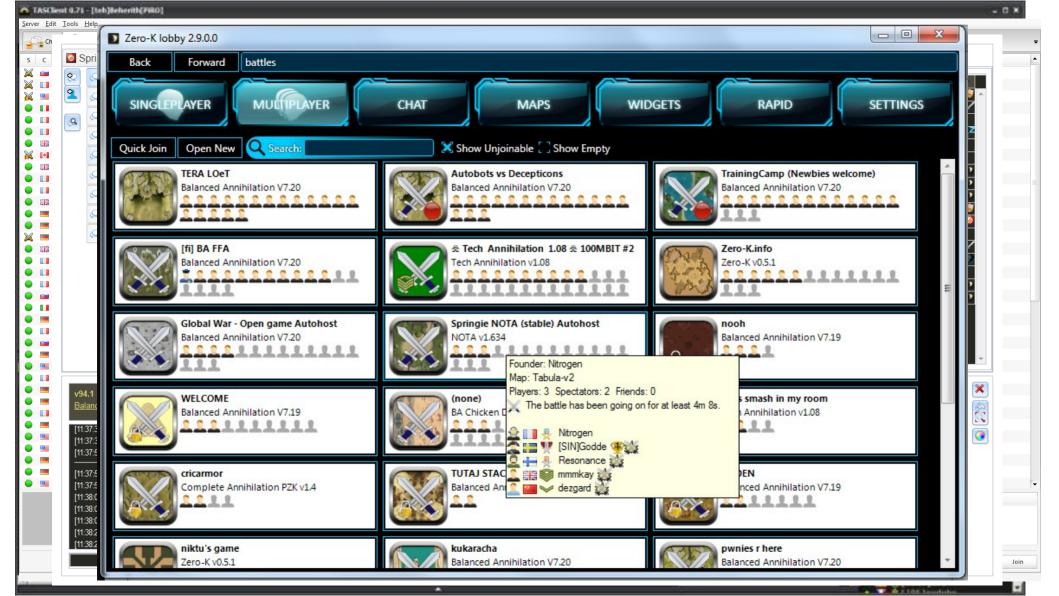


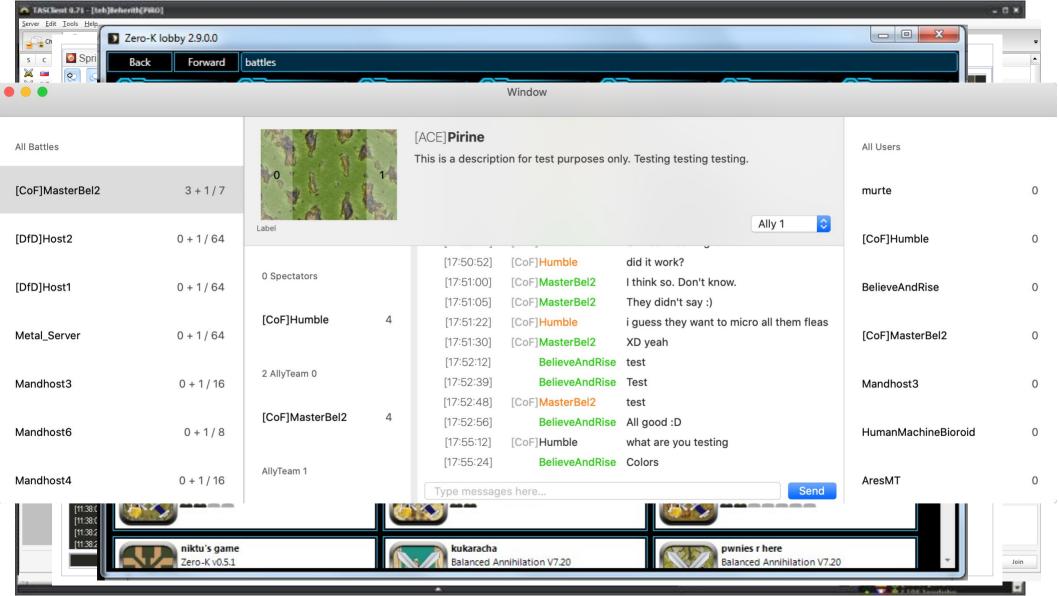


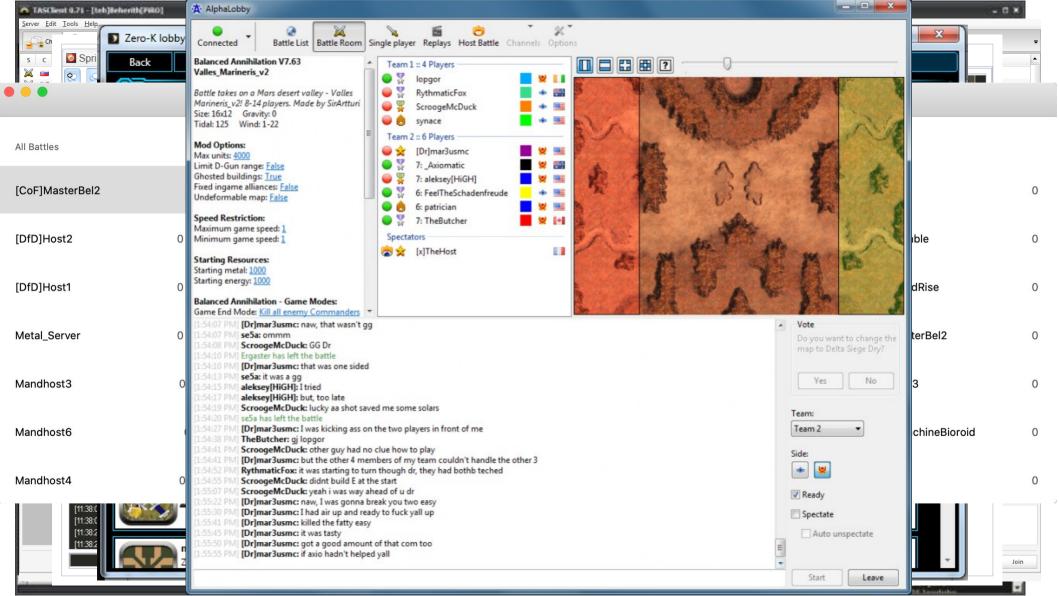




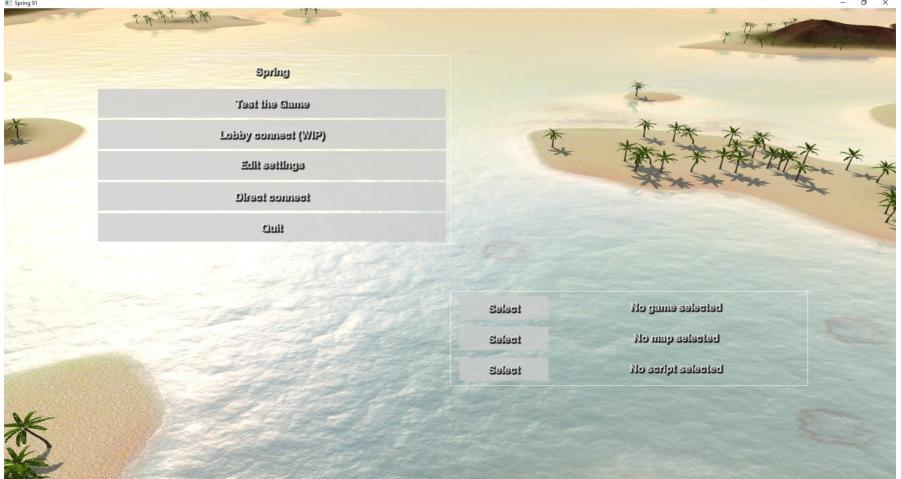




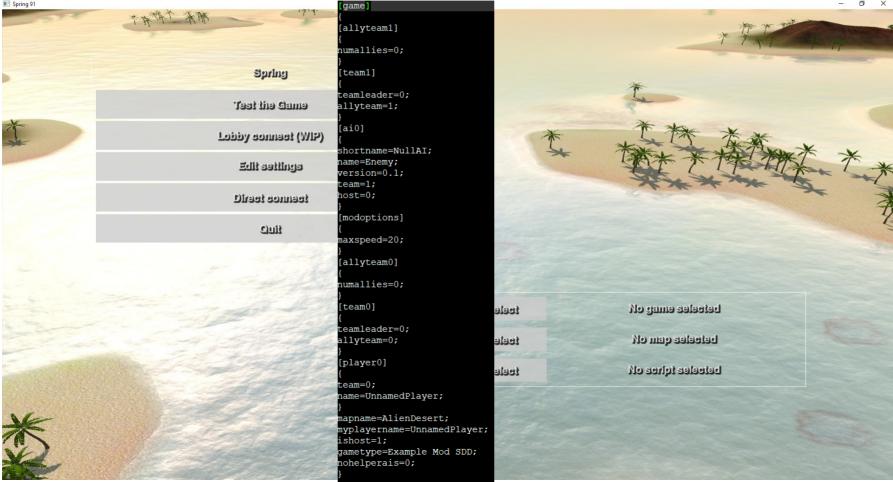




Why d'you need all that crap?



Why d'you need all that crap?



The UI Problem

"There's a closely related issue, however that I don't know how to solve yet without a big player with a lot of money, which is doing systematic user interface end user testing. We're not very good at that yet, we need to find a way to be good at it."

The UI Problem

"There's a closely related issue however that | DevOps. The Idea. **Follow** @stahnma Wi Everybody has a testing environment. Some US people are lucky enough enough to have a go go totally separate environment to run production in.

3:07 PM - 21 Aug 2015

The UI Problem – Why?

- Users' time is a limited resource
- Devs' time is an even more limited resource
- Users' good will is the most limited resource

The UI Problem – Why?

- Users' time is a limited resource
- Devs' time is an even more limited resource
- Users' good will is the most limited resource
- Free games have it worse

The UI Problem – Why?

- Users' time is
- Devs' time is
- Users' good v
- Free games



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ted resource

EVERY CHANGE BREAKS SOMEONE'S WORKFLOW.

The UI Problem – Inertia

- Teachers are there to get you
- Develobsters want to ruin your game.

The UI Solution

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Launch Blockers

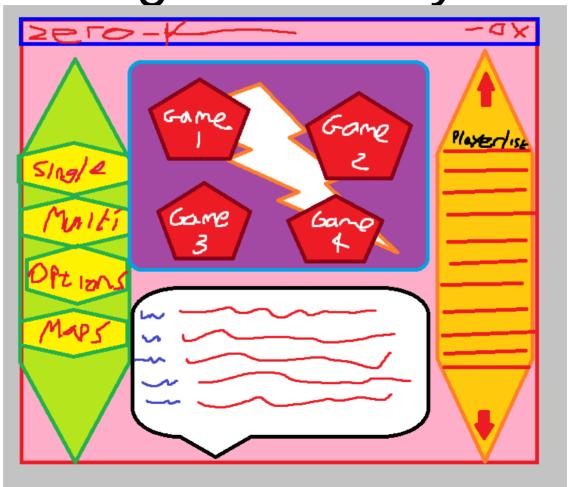
- Server
- Lobby
- GUI
- Singleplayer
- Trailer

Launch Unblockers

- Server migration and new Backend
- Ingame Lobby
- GUI revamp
- Compromises
- Luck

Ingame Lobby

Ingame Lobby





Report firepluk EXIT

Report firepluk Spectate

RAIN LUBBY Report Firepluk Play!



Ingame Lobby



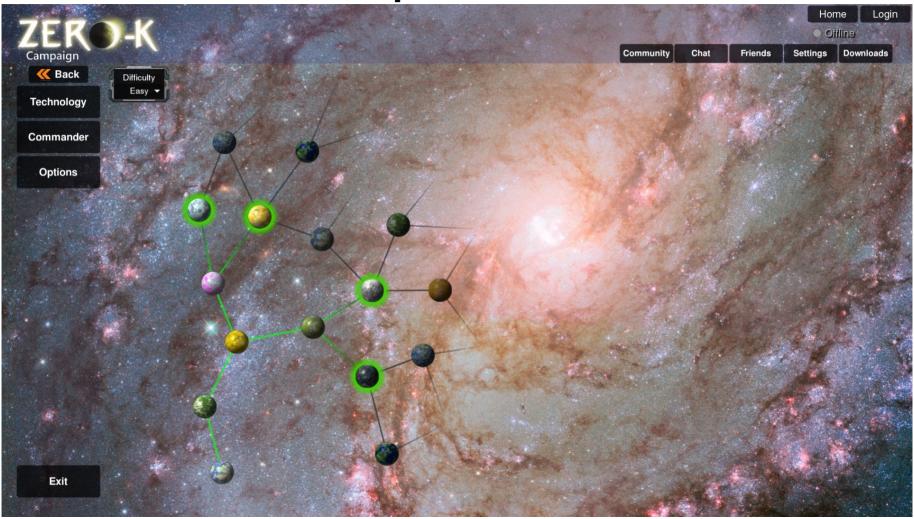
GUI Revamp



GUI Revamp



Compromises



Luck

Itch.io

- Smaller platform
- Smaller exposure smaller risk
- Great opportunity for feedback

Zero-K Steam Launch

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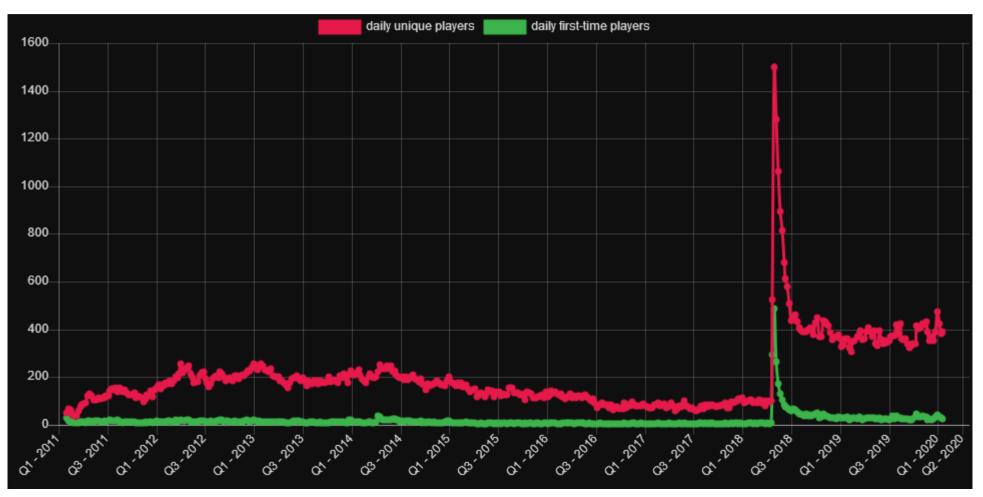
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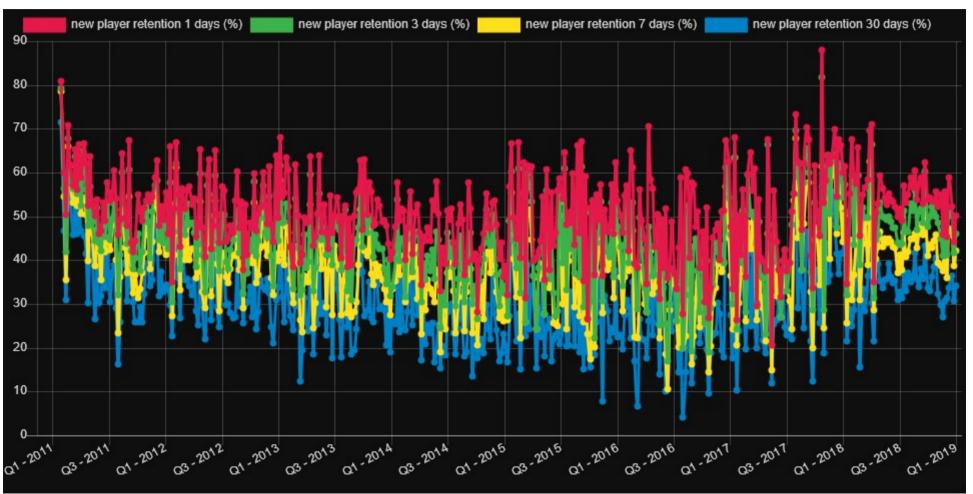
Steam Launch – June 20



Was it a Success?



Was it a Success?



Was it a Success?



What is Success?

- Donations covered servers cost
- Getting maximum players?
- Getting maximum devs?

The Aftermath

- Burned out devs
- What's more important, stability or stability?

Lessons Learnt

- Minimise MTTF
- Compromise!

Lessons Learnt

- Minimise MTTF (Mean Time to Fun)
- Compromise!

Questions?

This time for real :-)