

Learn how to create a successful online RPG.

Creating an Online Roleplaying Game

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Creating an Online Roleplaying Game

By Alexander Hinkley

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Introduction

Creating an online RPG takes a lot of time, hard work, and technical knowledge about balanced game mechanics. While I cannot instill into you these first two requirements, I *can* teach you a bit about the mechanics of things. First, let me tell you a little about myself and my site. At the time of this writing, I am the owner of an online RPG named Alex's DBZ RPG 5. It is a forum based play-by-post (PBP) roleplaying game set in a unique version of a world based around a popular anime. I created this site on June 1st, 2000 so it has been running for over nine years. I have been around the online text RPG scene for even longer, playing around various other RPGs for two years before taking a shot at creating my own. That is nearly twelve years of experience which is more experience playing RPGs than some of my site's members have been alive!

As the title of my site reveals, this is the fifth installment of the RPG so it has not been running continuously for all nine years, but it is still one of the longest running and most active DBZ RPGs on the internet with over seven thousand lifetime

registered forum users and nearly one hundred active daily players.¹ Since my site is based off of the *Dragonball Z* anime, it could be classified as fan-fiction by some which does give it a good head start over many other genres because fans of the show are going to recognize characters on the game and be more inclined to sign up and try it out. However, during my tenure as administrator and owner of the site, I have seen literally dozens of other DBZ RPGs come and go. Some of them were equally as well made as mine but not as well maintained. So what makes my site so successful when so many others fail? Throughout the course of this book, I intend to share with you all of the wisdom I have gained throughout the years maintaining my RPG and what I think must be done to create one that can ultimately be successful.

¹ Number as of January 2010. Counts registered users on both old and new site forums.

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