

14 April 2011

Kyle,

Good topic. You're right; the whole notion of local multiplayer online gaming has been totally neglected. And yet I've done it myself on numerous occasions, in everything from Mario Kart Wii to LittleBigPlanet to Age of Mythology. So I'm glad you're calling the world's (or at least Rik's) attention to it.

Make sure you give a really thorough definition of what *hybrid-gaming* near the beginning of your paper, with enough examples to make sure even someone who barely plays video games could understand the concept. I understood it right off the bat because I'm very familiar with it already, but I feel like less-savvy readers will be confused if you don't explain piece-by-piece what a *hybrid-gaming* situation is like (multiple players who know each other in the same room, playing in the same game session, but online simultaneously competing or cooperating with players not in the room who they may or may not know).

I've personally experienced *hybrid-gaming* as sometimes serving as a kind of "gateway drug" for less experienced players to get into online gaming by experiencing it in the same room with more experienced players. For example, my girlfriend didn't have any console online gaming experiences until she played Mario Kart Wii with me, both of us playing in the same room but against players from around the world. So she got a taste of online gaming and ended up doing it more by herself later on; it was less intimidating not going it alone the first time, so she did it when otherwise she may not have. Don't know if you want to talk about that aspect of it in your paper; just throwin' it out there.

You've got some really good stuff. I don't think the fact that you only have observed the one group is a hindrance because, like you say, it's valuable just to introduce the whole concept to the world and spread some general understanding and awareness of its prevalence. Other people can do more extensive research down the line if they ever feel like it.

Good work. Keep it up.

Your peer,

John Pray