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1: Welcome

Introduction To The System

## Part 1: Welcome Introduction To The System

The online space has been going nuts right now over mystery games, escape rooms, puzzle bundles and these wonderful little digital collections that have a hungry and excited repeat customer base on marketplaces like Etsy.

If you have already created your own mystery type game then you're already on your way!

If you haven't yet, <u>Game Builder Al</u> is a great way to get a start with their collection of prompts and even a done-for-you funnel system that allows you to sell your games in a smarter way too, it's live 12th of July and packed with straight forward steps to creating them - even if you're never done this kind of thing before.

#### The information in this report is great for you if:

- You've already got a story you want to turn into a computer game
- OR ... if you've got an idea of a game you'd like to build...
- OR ... if you've never done this kind of thing before and just want to try something new...

#### Keep reading!

In this report we'll break down the steps to use AI to create your game contents, the graphics and even the code - and i'll show you the software you can use (free!) to build your game ready for publishing wherever you like.

We've even included a few places built especially for you to be able to list these little computer games for sale, or give them for free and earn passive ad display income paid by the sites per play of your game.

I hope you like this and look forward to seeing what games you build!



2: Make Your Game
Let's create your interactive
game! Follow the steps.

# Part 2: Make Your Game Let's create your interactive game! Follow the steps.

Making your game will happen in five parts.

- **STEP 1: Research** (choosing your niche/story & audience)
- **STEP 2: Content Creation** (making your story & graphic components)
- **STEP 3: Creating Your Game** (using the free software to build it)
- **STEP 4: Testing Your Game** (you get to play it!)
- STEP 5: Publishing Your Game (ready to monetize, gift or use in any other way)

So... let's get started!

## **Step 1: Research**

The first step for anything you do in business is to come up with the idea - and we want to do our best to make sure that idea will be a good one! So here's a simple process you can use to get started.

- **Exploring <u>Itch.io</u>:** This is your playground, the place where a lot of indie game publishers create and share their content
- **Browse Popular Games:** Click on the "Interactive Fiction" and "Adventure" categories. These sections are brimming with creative juices just waiting to inspire you.
- **Take Notes:** See a game you like? Note down what catches your eye. Is it the story? The artwork? The gameplay mechanics? No detail is too small.
- **Identify Trends:** Spot any recurring themes or styles? Jot those down too. Are haunted houses all the rage? Are players going nuts over sci-fi epics? Note anything you notice.

If you've already created a game, using the training and materials found on <u>Game Builders Al</u> you're halfway there! Have a look if there are any games in that search that are similar in theme to what you've created.

Go a little deeper and PLAY a few games.

Before you dive into creation mode, let's play some games! Yep, you heard right. Play a few interactive fiction games on Itch.io. This is your homework, but the fun kind.

- **Experience the Gameplay:** Pay attention to how the story unfolds, how characters interact, and how puzzles are integrated.
- **Draw Inspiration:** Note down elements you love and those you'd like to avoid. This will help shape your unique game.

# Part 2: Make Your Game Let's create your interactive game! Follow the steps.

Research & Idea Generation With ChatGPT.

If you're still a little stuck on where to start, here are some prompts to get you started:

- **Brainstorming Ideas:** "Help me brainstorm ideas for an interactive mystery game set in a [specific setting, e.g., haunted mansion, small town]."
- **Expanding Ideas:** "Expand on this idea for a mystery game: [insert brief idea or theme]."
- **Generating New Concepts:** "Generate three unique story concepts for a mystery game inspired by [name a game or genre you found interesting]."

Once you've got your idea we can start on the next part ...

### **Step 2: Content Creation**

Now you've got your idea locked in, we're going to use ChatGPT (or your choice of AI content generator) to create the story content, graphics and compile the content ready to make our game. Let's dive in!

#### Generating Story Content with ChatGPT

Your story is the heart of your game. Whether it's a spine-tingling mystery or a non-stop adventure, a well-crafted story will keep players hooked. Here's how you can use ChatGPT to create compelling story elements:

Useful Prompts To Create Your Content

- Main Storyline Creation Prompt: "Generate a basic plot outline for a mystery game set in a small town, including plot twists, red herrings to make it highly engaging"
- Character Creation Prompt: "Create a character profile for a detective protagonist in a mystery game and supporting character profiles including backstories, motivations, and quirks."
- **Generate Story Flow Prompt:** "Outline this as a complete and comprehensive text based CYOA style game."
- **Complete Dialogue Prompt:** "Write each of those sections as a complete CYOA style story with full dialogue and creatively written storylines. Include suggestions for images for each of the sections."

Now you should have a decently outlined and written story. Of course, the more you can input back to ChatGPT and rewrite to sound more interesting and engaging, the better your results will be! Next up we can gather the images to add atmosphere to your game.

## Part 2: Make Your Game Let's create your interactive game! Follow the steps.

Collecting/Creating Your Images

There are a lot of tools out there, including AI image generators like DALL-E, where you can ask it to do something like: "Create a (insert your prompt from the ChatGPT generated content in our last section) (insert your genre/style) game." Or you can use things like:

- <u>Canva:</u> Design graphics with easy-to-use templates and tools.
- <u>Unsplash</u>: High-quality, free-to-use images.
- Pixabay: A vast library of free images and illustrations.
- Freepik: Another site with a huge selection of images to choose from

Remember to either buy licensing that allows you to use it, or credit sufficiently in your game credits. Name your files so they're easy to connect with each of the sections of content your story contains.

## **Step 3: Creating Your Game**

Now that you've got your story and graphics ready, it's time to transform all that fantastic content into a playable game. We'll be using Twine, a free and user-friendly tool for creating interactive fiction. Don't worry if you've never used it before—by the end of this chapter, you'll be a Twine pro. Let's get started!

#### What is Twine?

Twine is a powerful tool for creating interactive, nonlinear stories. Here's how to get set up:

- Download and Install Twine here twinery.org
- Download the latest version of Twine for your operating system.
- Follow the installation instructions and open the program.

#### Converting Your Story To Use With Twince

Here is where ChatGPT really shines. That story you had it write earlier can be converted to code, turning text into perfectly formatted content you can use to make your game.

To do that simply paste this prompt into ChatGPT under where you've had it generate the content of the story earlier:

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## Part 2: Make Your Game Let's create your interactive game! Follow the steps.

Prompt: "Convert the following story content into Twine passage format including an image URL for each passage: [insert story content]."

ChatGPT will format your story into individual passages, ready for Twine.

#### Copy and Paste into Twine

- Create a new Twine story (you'll see the button top right of your screen)
- Use the "+" button to add new passages.
- Copy and paste the formatted content from ChatGPT into the respective passages.
- Add the images to match each of your pieces (you'll need to upload them and then place that url into the place ChatGPT has created for you in the copy/paste prompt)

#### Customising Your Game Further

The way Twine works is to create links. ChatGPT will do this automatically for you, but if you want to understand how it's working here's a little bit of information you can play with, in case you want to customise beyond the text and story ChatGPT has created for you.

- Highlight the text you want to turn into a link.
- Type the passage name in double brackets: [[Go to the mansion]]
- This will create a link to a passage named "Go to the mansion."
- Use these links to guide players through your story.

#### Example of Twine Passage Setup

- Passage: Introduction
- Text: "Welcome to the small town of Eldridge, where mysteries lurk around every corner. Will you uncover the secrets hidden within?"
- Links: [[Start the Investigation]]
- Passage: Start the Investigation
- Text: "Detective Harper arrives at the scene. The air is thick with tension."
- Image: <img src="images/mansion.jpg" alt="Spooky Mansion">
- Links: [[Talk to Mrs. Willow]] [[Inspect the Garden]]

Go through your passages and ensure everything is linked correctly. Check for typos, broken links, and ensure the story flows smoothly.

## **Step 4: Testing Within Twine**

## Part 2: Make Your Game Let's create your interactive game! Follow the steps.

You can use Twine's "Play" or inside one of the nodes you can click 'test from here' to preview your game.

Clicking on that will open it in a window, so you can continue through it, make adjustments and see how it looks for people who will one day be playing your game!

### **Step 5: Publishing Your Game**

You've done it! Your game is complete, and now it's time to share it with the world. So here's how to export it ready to publish it:)

Exporting Your Game from Twine

- Open your project in Twine.
- Click on "File" in the top menu.
- Select "Publish to File."
- Choose a location on your computer to save the HTML file and give it a name.

#### Check the Exported File

- Locate the HTML file you just saved.
- Open it in a web browser to ensure everything looks and works as expected.

Play through it and check that it's working how you like and you can move on to submitting it to some gaming sites ready to be played.



3: Selling It Some ideas and locations for packaging & selling your game

### Part 3: Selling It

Some ideas and locations for packaging & selling your game.

Now that it's time to get your game out there, we'll begin with the simplest and most popular free-to-release game marketplace, <a href="Itch.io">Itch.io</a></a>

To list and set up your game for either sale or free game play, do the following:

- Create an account here <a href="Itch.io">Itch.io</a> if you don't already have one.
- Log in to your Itch.io account.
- Go to your dashboard and click "Create new project."
- Upload Your Game File
- Fill in the project details, including the title, description, and tags. (ask ChatGPT to help you too if you need help with those!)
- Click "Upload files" and select your exported HTML file.
- Choose the appropriate visibility and pricing options (free, paid, or donation-based).
- Customize Your Game Page
- Add a cover image, screenshots, and any additional media to make your game page visually appealing.
- Use the "Theme" option to customize the look and feel of your game page.

Once you're satisfied with your game page, click "Save & view page." then you can review everything one last time and click "Publish."

Additional Places You Can List Your Games:

In addition to Itch.io, there are several other platforms where you can distribute or sell your game. Here's a list of some popular options:

<u>Kongregate:</u> A platform for free-to-play games where you can earn ad revenue based on the number of plays.

<u>Newgrounds</u>: Another great platform for free-to-play games with a large, active community. <u>Game Jolt</u>: A platform that supports both free and paid games, with options for monetization and community interaction.

<u>Steam</u>: A major platform for distributing both free and paid games. Requires a one-time fee and approval process for listing your game.



## Part 4: Tips & Wrap Up Resources & Moving Forward To Create More!

While Itch.io is a fantastic platform for indie game developers, it's no secret that many games listed there don't generate much income. A significant number of these games are created and uploaded by kids or hobbyists with little to no business or marketing sense. But you're not 'most people' - with a bit of strategic thinking, you can take your marketing prowess into a new space like Itch.io and beyond and use your game in a variety of other ways for profit.

### Strategy 1: Use Your Game as a Lead Magnet

One of the most effective ways to leverage your game is to use it as a lead magnet. A lead magnet is a valuable free item given away to gather contact information from potential customers. Using the package that comes with <u>Game Builder Al</u> Is the hands-down, easiest way get it live without having to fuss over building it all from scratch.

The basic idea for using a similar system on your own could be to:

- Set up a simple landing page on your website.
- Offer your game as a free download in exchange for visitors' email addresses.
- Deliver that game via email
- Potentially recommending your digital download, expandable and complete murder mystery event (for example), if you created one with the Game Builder Ai program

## Strategy 2: Incorporate Easter Eggs for Promotions

Add a layer of interactivity and excitement by hiding Easter eggs in your game. These can be special clues or hidden items that lead to exclusive promotions or coupons.

- Hide promotional codes within your game that offer discounts on other products or services you sell **Example:** "Find the hidden key in the mansion to unlock a 20% discount on our merch."
- Create a treasure hunt within your game where players can find hidden treasures that lead to real-world rewards. This can significantly increase engagement and player retention and could be given away by business owners in store (capturing email too!)

### **Strategy 3: Complement Other Formats**

Use your game to complement and promote other creative works you have, such as books or differently formatted games.

## Part 4: Tips & Wrap Up Resources & Moving Forward To Create More!

- Promote a Mystery Novel Series. If you've written a mystery novel series, your game can serve as an entry point to the story, so you could make the game free and at the end of the story you can encourage them to keep reading to find out more in your series (link!)
- Complement a Different Game Format. If you've made aboard game or card game, or you're selling a mystery event on Etsy you can tie the two together to add value.

#### Where To Go Now?

If you'd like to explore this idea further - to create better games faster and to explore the potential of selling on Etsy, consider visiting <u>Game Builder Al</u>. This training and software package provides a collection of prompts and a done-for-you funnel system that allows you to create and sell your games in a whole new way!

## **Click Here To Find Out More**

Remember, creativity and strategic thinking are your best allies in standing out and making your game a commercial success. Good luck, and may your game become a hit!